

Ibn Ali announces amnesty

TUNIS (AP) — Tunisia's new president, Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali, on Saturday pardoned 791 prisoners sentenced for dissident activities against his predecessor, Habib Bourguiba. Most of those freed were members of the illegal fundamentalist Islamic Tendency Movement (MITI). Another 1,683 non-political prisoners had their sentences reduced. Among those granted amnesty was Ahmad Mestiri, leader of the main opposition party, the Democratic Socialist Movement, who had been under house arrest. He was sentenced to four months' imprisonment for organising an illegal demonstration against the U.S. air attacks on the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi in April 1986. The amnesty decree also reduced to 20 years imprisonment the life terms passed on six men convicted of acts of violence during the 1984 "bread riots" in which more than 100 people were killed. The amnesty did not affect the 90 fundamentalists sentenced last September for terrorism and anti-government activities.

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King to visit Cairo today

CAIRO (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein is due in Cairo on Sunday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on Middle East developments and the Gulf war ahead of the superpower summit in Washington on Monday, official sources said. The two leaders would urge President Ronald Reagan and Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev to help to explore ways to advance Middle East peace efforts, sources close to the Foreign Ministry said. King Hussein and President Mubarak meet regularly to coordinate foreign policy. King Hussein will also brief President Mubarak on his efforts to heal the rift between Iraq and Syria, the sources said. A reconciliation between Baghdad and Damascus is seen as a major step towards ending the seven-year Gulf war.

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King visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Saturday visited the Army General Headquarters (GHQ) in Amman and met with Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. The King passed to Field Marshal Sharif Zaid directives concerning the Armed Forces.

King sends good wishes to Finland and Thailand

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday sent cables of good wishes to Finnish President Mauno Koivisto and King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand congratulating them on the occasion of their countries' respective independence days. In his cables, the King wished the two leaders continuing good health and happiness and their respective peoples further progress and prosperity.

Finnish firm denies selling Soviet oil to Israel

HELSINKI (AP) — The Finnish oil company Neste on Saturday denied the state-owned firm had any plans to sell Soviet oil to Israel. "Neste is not involved in any oil deals with Israel," said Gai Hietarinta, Neste's manager or international deals. "Allegations that Neste would try to sell Soviet oil to Israel are totally unfounded," he said. Finland sends about one-fifth of its exports to the Soviet Union worth \$3.3 billion last year. Under a recent agreement with the Soviets, Finland takes much of the payment in oil, some of which is traded to third countries for cash. Reports of negotiations for an Israeli-Soviet oil deal through Finland emerged after a private visit here by the Israeli energy minister, Moshe Shaleh, earlier this week. Mr. Shaleh met Foreign Trade Minister Ilkka Suominen, who also has denied a deal was in the works.

Group claims attacks in Kuwait

BEIRUT (R) — A previously unknown group said on Saturday it carried out a series of attacks in Kuwait and would wage holy war to end U.S. and British influence in the Middle East. The Organisation for the Liberation of Kuwait Muslims (OLKM) said in a typewritten statement delivered to two international news agencies in west Beirut that the "zealous youth of Kuwait" would punish all foreign plotters. There was no way of judging its authenticity. The group claimed responsibility for all attacks in Kuwait since April 24. In particular, it said it set off a fire at a propane gas tank in the Ahmadi port complex on May 24. It also said it was responsible for an explosion at a ticket office for the Pan-American airline on Oct. 25 and a similar blast at American Life Insurance offices on Oct. 27.

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EC summit collapses without accord over agricultural subsidies

Unreleased political statements reaffirm support for Mideast conference and urge Gulf ceasefire

COPENHAGEN (Agencies) — The European Community (EC) summit collapsed in failure on Saturday but the leaders of the 12 states said they would meet again in February to try to stop the group's slide towards bankruptcy.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez told reporters: "The meeting has ended without agreement." He said the leaders would reconvene in Brussels on Feb. 11 and 12.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said: "There was no compromise possible right now but we have to come to a solid compromise in eight weeks time."

The leaders had made a desperate attempt to avoid such an outcome, which they feared would unsettle world financial markets and expose European divisions on the eve of the U.S.-Soviet summit.

They finally abandoned their talks after a day of baggling over how to limit spending on agricultural subsidies, which swallow two thirds of the EC budget.

Resistance fighters kill 3 SLA men near Jezzine

RASHAYA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Resistance fighters killed three Israeli-backed militiamen in an attack in South Lebanon on Saturday while losing at least two of their own men.

The Islamic Resistance Movement said its men assaulted a position of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia southeast of Jezzine and battled the militiamen in the Toumat Niha hills for several hours with rockets, mortars and machineguns.

It said the SLA suffered "heavy human losses" while two of the fighters were killed.

The SLA-run Voice of Hope radio said three SLA militiamen were killed and three wounded in the fighting. It said the bodies of three fighters were later found.

Israel army radio said dozens of pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) fighters launched the raid shortly before dawn.

The Islamic Resistance statement was broadcast by the Voice of Islam radio by Hizbollah, the strongest member of the Islamic Resistance coalition.

The town of Jezzine lies north of an Israeli-declared border "security zone" but is under Israeli military influence as it is held by the SLA.

'U.S. urged restraint after glider attack'

In another development, a Beirut newspaper reported Saturday that the United States urged Israel to avoid military escalation after a Palestinian hang-glider raid in which six soldiers were killed.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy told the Al Safir newspaper that Washington had urged "all parties concerned" in the attack "to practise self-control and avoid any military escalation."

Israel has said it will avenge the Nov. 25 killing of the soldiers at an army camp in northern Israel by a Palestinian commando who crossed the closely-guarded border on a motorised hang-glider.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said on Thursday that he expected Israel to retaliate with either a military incursion or with air strikes into Lebanon.

Earlier, some leaders acknowledged that failure of the summit also undermined Western Europe's influence just as the superpowers prepared for the historic Washington summit.

The lack of a budget freezes spending on EEC programmes, such as science and aid to poorer members, and casts doubt on plans for a barrier-free, more united Europe by 1992.

Apparently conscious of not being taken seriously by other nations as they quarrelled over grocery prices, the West European leaders held up publication of joint declarations on international issues.

The three declarations were

on global issues — East-West relations, Afghanistan and the Middle East.

The leaders welcomed next week's Washington summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and said a treaty to scrap intermediate-range nuclear missiles was a milestone.

The leaders reiterated well-known positions in favour of a Middle East peace conference under United Nations auspices and backed calls for a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

They urged the Soviet Union to withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan during 1988 under a fixed timetable, agree to the establishment of a transitional government, and recognise that participation of Afghan guerrillas was essential for a comprehensive political settlement.

The meeting foundered over how to curb farm spending, raise more money and give more funds to the bloc's deprived regions.

Aziz heads for talks with Shultz and U.N. chief

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz flew to New York on Saturday for a short working visit to the United States, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

The agency said Mr. Aziz would meet with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss efforts to implement the Security Council's Gulf war ceasefire resolution.

Mr. Aziz did not make any statement on departure, but Iraq's chief delegate to the United Nations, Ismat Kittani, said on Friday that the council should impose sanctions on Iran in view of Tehran's continued failure to accept the resolution.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar met Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Jawad Larjani earlier this week and, in an unusual development, briefed U.S. and Soviet officials together on his two days of talks.

Iraq accepted the ceasefire demand on condition that Iran did likewise, but Mr. Kittani said the Iraqis had engaged only in procrastination.

Before meeting with Mr. Perez de Cuellar, Mr. Aziz will exchange views with U.S. officials. The Iraqi envoy is scheduled to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Monday before heading for U.N. headquarters in New York.

Murphy: Soviets will back arms embargo on Iran

KUWAIT (Agencies) — A senior United States official predicted the Soviet Union would support an arms embargo against Iran if it continued to flout ceasefire calls, a newspaper reported Saturday.

"The United States now expects the Security Council to adopt a second resolution... imposing an arms embargo on Iran," the daily Al Qabas quoted the official, Richard Murphy, as saying.

Mr. Murphy, an assistant secretary of state who specialises in Middle East affairs, said Soviet support for an embargo was "imperative" and he expected it to be forthcoming.

He argued the "strong and clear language" used by Arab leaders at last month's summit conference in Amman "should convince the Soviet Union to take such an attitude."

Mr. Murphy discussed the issue

of the council's adopting an embargo resolution with Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Al Osaimi in Washington last week.

Mr. Osaimi on Friday met his British counterpart David Mellor, in a bid to recruit British support for an embargo resolution.

The Arab summit resolutions on the Gulf war "should assist U.S. endeavours to convince the Soviet Union to revise its policy on this score during the superpower summit," Mr. Murphy was quoted as saying.

Mr. Murphy also stressed that the United States was "not out for any special military gains or bases" in the Gulf region.

The role of the U.S. navy was to protect reflagged Kuwaiti tankers "and contribute to the region's stability," he affirmed.

Gromyko assails Iran, page 2

Three-day conference on Food Security in Muslim World opens

AMMAN (I.T.) — A three-day symposium entitled Food Security in the Muslim World opened in Amman on Saturday with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan calling on participating countries to employ modern technology for better and more profitable exploitation of soil to ensure bumper crops and food security for their people.

In an address delivered on his behalf by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan, Prince Hassan drew attention to the seriousness of population explosion and its consequences. He said the present rate of population growth had given rise to many fears, most important of which was

whether there would be enough land for food and at a reasonable cost for the future generations.

The main concern is for cultivable land, much of which is being lost to desert, salination, erosion and increasingly to waste pollution, Prince Hassan noted. He said amid this gloomy picture one should not overlook the great potential of the Muslim World in food production that could be tapped via exploiting the appropriate means to accommodate regional food insufficiencies.

Following are excerpts from the Crown Prince's speech:

"The issue you are tackling today is of prime importance as it penetrates to the heart of the

concept of survival. The striking phenomena that the 46 Muslim countries — with the exception of three countries (Malaysia, Turkey and Pakistan) — are short of food demonstrates the dimension of the problem. Not only that, but a number of Muslim countries are experiencing tragic conditions of famine and food shortages. It is really shocking to recall that in the two major food famines in recent history in which millions of people died of starvation occurred in Muslim countries.

"The fact that the term 'security' is used, indicates that food shortage is not only a problem of

(Continued on page 4)

Experts work on 'declaration of action' to solve food problems of Islamic states

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A high-powered body started a series of meetings here on Saturday to draft a "declaration of action" to address food insecurity in the Muslim World.

The "declaration of action," which will be submitted to the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), is expected to point out to the Islamic leaders the seriousness and complexities of the problem and will identify specific practical steps to solve the problem of food insecurity in the Islamic World as a whole.

The three-day meeting, sponsored by the Islamic Academy of Sciences, and held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, is attended by 75 scientists and decision-makers representing 22 countries and regional and international organisations concerned with eliminating famine and food shortages.

The Islamic Academy of Sciences was established by the Standing Islamic Ministerial Committee on Science and Technology earlier this year to function as "a think-tank to provide practical solutions to the most important problems facing the Islamic countries."

Although the Islamic Academy of Sciences headed by Pakistani President Zia Al Haq is linked with the OIC system, it is considered to be a non-political and non-governmental organisation

thus making it a professional organisation of distinguished Muslim scientists fully dedicated to providing comprehensive solutions for technological and science-related problems in the Muslim World.

The Amman meeting is considered the first of a series to address a major problem confronting Muslim nations. The meeting, entitled "Food Security in the Muslim World," aims at outlining the major obstacles and identifying areas of cooperation among Muslim countries.

During Saturday's discussions, speakers stressed the need for integration among Islamic countries as the only means to reduce food insecurity. Several scientists

considered the first of a series to address a major problem confronting Muslim nations. The meeting, entitled "Food Security in the Muslim World," aims at outlining the major obstacles and identifying areas of cooperation among Muslim countries.

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(Continued on page 4)

Reagan: INF pact is 'good bargain'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan on Saturday called the U.S.-Soviet treaty to eliminate medium-range missiles "a good bargain" for America and said the pact furthers the cause of world peace.

Mr. Reagan, who has come under harsh criticism from conservatives who accuse him of giving in to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said in his weekly radio address that he looked forward to joining the Kremlin leader in celebrating "a joint achievement."

Of the intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty (INF), the president said: "It represents a good bargain, one that completely meets the longstanding goals of the United States and our allies and advances the interests of peace."

Mr. Reagan said that while "fundamental differences" still separate the superpowers, leaders of both the United States and the Soviet Union "must also recognise our obligation to ensure the peace. This summit meeting and treaty represent just that."

As he continued preparing for the summit with Mr. Gorbachev, who arrives Monday, Mr. Reagan's characterisation of treaty foes as people who accept "the inevitability of war" prompted bitter recriminations from some of his former allies.

Conservatives within his party have accused him of becoming a stooge of the Kremlin for suggesting in an interview that they think nuclear war is inevitable.

Conservative caucus leader Howard Phillips called Mr. Reagan "a useful idiot for Kremlin propaganda" on Friday. He was speaking at a news conference launching the "Anti-Appeasement Alliance" which is campaigning for Senate rejection of the INF treaty.

On the Senate floor, Republican Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming said Mr. Reagan's interview statement "was the most unfortunate remark I've ever heard the president make."

Egypt calls on superpower summit to seek solutions to Mideast conflicts

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt urged U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Saturday to seek ways of resolving Middle East conflicts and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to help in the process.

Osama Al Baz, chief political aide to President Hosni Mubarak, singled out the Iran-Iraq war, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan and the Lebanese civil war as the most pressing regional problems worthy of superpower attention at the summit opening in Washington on Tuesday.

Dr. Baz, who doubles as first under-secretary of the Foreign Ministry, told reporters that this outline summed up messages that Mr. Mubarak sent to Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev on Friday through their embassies in Cairo.

The superpowers should take decisive steps to end the Gulf war, Dr. Baz said.

Additionally, he said, the two leaders should decide how to remove obstacles, "particularly

Israeli intransigence," blocking the convening of an international conference under U.N. auspices to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

And he urged a Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan and establishment of a government acceptable to all parties there.

"Egypt believes the leaders of the two superpowers should not confine their interest (at the summit) to issues of disarmament," Dr. Baz said. "They should bear a special responsibility for contributing to the solution of regional problems."

Mr. Reagan has said he would ensure that regional issues are on the summit agenda.

Dr. Baz said Egypt views the Gulf war, now in its eighth year, as "a worsening, bleeding wound that threatens neighbouring countries." He cited Kuwait, which was a victim of several Iranian missile attacks in recent months.

"The two superpowers are called upon to take a more decisive position to end the Gulf war," he

Israelis shoot and wound 3 Arabs in Balata

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded three Palestinians during the night in a clash at the Balata refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus, the Israeli army said on Saturday.

The soldiers were on a routine patrol of the Balata camp when they were allegedly attacked, according to an Israeli army spokeswoman.

The soldiers fired tear-gas and rubber bullets but began using real bullets after the demonstrators refused to disperse, according to the spokeswoman.

Israeli troops wounded another resident of the camp on Thursday night during a similar incident. Balata, with 12,000 residents, is the largest refugee camp in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

14 reportedly held

The army said on Friday police had arrested 14 Palestinians, including a woman, who was allegedly preparing to attack one of Jerusalem's major population centres with grenades and rifles.

Other members of a 14-member Palestinian cell planned attacks on heavily populated areas in other major cities, according to the army command.

An army spokeswoman said the Palestinians were members of the Abu Musa wing of Fateh.

Seoul said seeking custody of woman suspect in KAL disappearance mystery

BAHRAIN (AP) — South Korean officials were reported Saturday to have asked the Bahrain government for custody of a woman and the body of her dead male companion, suspected of involvement in the disappearance of a South Korean jetliner six days ago.

However, diplomatic sources here said the Bahrainis were refusing to release either of the Asians until their identities and nationalities were established.

The Information Ministry announced that the woman, judged by doctors to have recovered from poison she apparently swallowed in a suicide attempt, had been moved from a military hospital to an unspecified "safe place" while "undergoing investigation by the authorities."

It said there was "full cooperation" between Bahrain and Japanese and South Korean investigators, who arrived here in the past two days, hoping to

identify the mystery pair. The woman has refused to talk with diplomats from the two countries.

In Seoul, South Korean authorities denied that the fingerprints of the dead man had been found to be those of a fugitive wanted on other charges. An Asian diplomatic source here, asking not to be named, reported that the prints had been matched with the fugitive's, but gave no other details.

The officials in Seoul said the prints had been compared to a list of criminals and international guerrillas, but were not matched. They said the process was continuing.

Authorities in Seoul believe the couple may have planted a bomb aboard Korean Airline's (KAL) Flight 858 in a plot by pro-north Korea extremists to disrupt South Korea's Dec. 16 presidential elections and the 1988 Summer Olympics.

North Korea on Saturday disavowed any involvement. "The South Korean passenger plane missing has nothing to do with us," it said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency and monitored in Tokyo.

"What is needed in the Middle East is agreement to convene an international conference next year and removal of all obstacles to this end, particularly Israeli intransigence," Dr. Baz said.

With the exception of Israel, Dr. Baz said, "all the parties want a conference, and mere

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Paris reportedly paid \$3m ransom to free 2 hostages

BEIRUT (R) — The Beirut Ash-Shiraa magazine has said that France bought the freedom of two French hostages released in Lebanon last week by paying a ransom of \$3 million and pledging to stop arms supplies to Iraq.

Asked in Paris to comment on Ash Shiraa's story, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman rejected the report, saying Prime Minister Jacques Chirac had already denied all reports that France had paid a ransom to free the two hostages.

"He said clearly there had been no ransom," she told Reuters. The Beirut weekly, which first broke news of the U.S.-Iran arms-for-hostages deal last November, quoted what it referred to as "sources" in its article made available ahead of publication.

It said a breakthrough in resolving the hostage crisis in Lebanon, where 24 foreigners are missing and believed kidnapped, was expected within a period not exceeding six months.

The pro-Syrian magazine said the deal which secured the release of French captives Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Aueque, "has many clauses and facets."

These, it said, went beyond the embassy war between Paris and Tehran and an outstanding loan of \$300 million France owes Iran.

"The deal involved aspects which concerned the direct kidnappers as well as others involved indirectly," Ash Shiraa said.

It added: "Concerning the kidnappers, it has been revealed that they received \$1.5 million for each of Normandin and Aueque."

Television crewman Norman, 35, and photographer Aueque, 31, were freed in Syrian-controlled Muslim west Beirut last Friday by their pro-Iranian captors, the Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO).

Paris has said that its decision to allow Vahid Ghorji, an interpreter at Iran's Paris embassy suspected of personal involvement in a wave of bombings in Paris last year, was not linked to the release of the Frenchmen.

In its report Ash Shiraa said: "France has pledged to stop providing Iraq with any new arms and this pledge came after the failure of an agreement between her (France) and Iran to provide the latter with arms and military hardware."

Before freeing Normandin and Aueque the RJO said it had received assurances that France would meet demands for changes in its Middle East policy.

"The remaining hostages will be freed just as the previous hostages were and a solution for their problem will be found within a period of time not exceeding six months," Ash Shiraa said.

In Copenhagen, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher accepted an assurance from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac on Friday that Paris paid no ransom to secure the release of two hostages by Iranian militants in Lebanon.

A French official told reporters Mrs. Thatcher apologised for articles in the British press condemning France for what they called a deal with terrorism.

Officials said Mr. Chirac approached Mrs. Thatcher over drinks before lunch at the European Community summit in Copenhagen and told her that British press reports that France had bought the release of the hostages were false.

"She fully accepted his assurance that there was no payment of ransom or sale of arms to secure the release of the hostages," a senior British official said, reading from a prepared statement.

Referring to information France gleaned from the hostages and the French seizure of a coast-ter loaded with arms apparently bound for Irish guerrillas, he added: "We very much appreciated the cooperation received over dealing with terrorism."

Mrs. Thatcher told parliament in London on Tuesday after France freed Ghorji: "The best defence against terrorists is to make sure you will never give in to their demands. That is, and will continue to be our policy."

Her statement, in reply to a denunciation of the French action by a senior member of her Conservative Party, was interpreted by the British press as an implicit criticism of Paris.

Articles and editorials said it would be more difficult to secure the release of British hostages in Lebanon, including Anglican church envoy Terry Waite, if France had paid a ransom.

Gromyko assails Iran over Gulf war

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Andrei Gromyko has accused Iran of doing little to stop its long, bloody war with Iraq, the TASS news agency reported.

The TASS account of Mr. Gromyko's meeting with Iranian Ambassador Naser Heirany Nubary contained some of the Soviet Union's sharpest public criticism yet of either side in the war.

The Soviet Union is Iraq's main weapons supplier, but recently has been seeking to improve commercial and other relations with Iran's fundamentalist Islamic government.

"You as an ambassador and the Iranian leadership made a great number of statements about the wish to end the war," Mr. Gromyko said. "But the war goes on. Iran is practically not carrying the matters toward ending the war. Therefore the main questions remain unresolved."

"Blood is being spilled profusely. But the Soviet leadership holds that neither Iran nor Iraq has blood to spare," Mr. Gromyko said.

"If Iran really stopped the war and embarked on a political settlement of disputes with Iraq nobody would accuse this step as a defeat for Iran," Mr. Gromyko said.

"Any person would probably agree that the war cannot go on indefinitely, and that the later Iran arrives at the conclusion that it should be ended, the less favourable this will be for Iran," he said.

Soviet emissaries have visited both Iran and Iraq in recent months seeking an end to the seven years of fighting. The U.N. Security Council, which includes the Soviet Union, passed Resolution 598 this summer calling for an immediate end to the fighting.

TASS said the Iranian ambassador flew to Tehran and brought back a message from the Iranian leadership in which it calls for broader cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Palestinian fighters lay down guns to repair camp

BEIRUT (R) — Jihad leaned his rifle against a bullet-pocked wall, seized a pickaxe and set to work with fellow Palestinian comrades repairing the mosque at Beirut's Shatila refugee camp.

Veteran Palestinian fighters have laid down arms in recent weeks to rebuild Shatila's hospital, mosque and two schools, shattered in three years of battles with Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen.

But the latest round of the Amal-Palestinian "camps war" that ended in September also demolished about 95 per cent of the concrete single-storey houses and tin-roofed shacks in Shatila.

Unless agreement is reached to allow more supplies into the camp, its estimated 2,500 residents will have a miserable winter as rain and cold seeps through their damaged roofs and walls.

"The whole camp is like a big swamp," said Mariam Taleh, a mother of six, using a handful of cement taken from the fighters at the mosque to patch the bullet holes in her single-room home.

"People might think we have adapted to this life but I don't understand how any human can adapt to this," she said, glancing at her sick 12-year-old daughter sleeping on the bare floor.

As more cement was mixed nearby, women and old men in the yard of the mosque tended carnations planted on a mass grave for about 450 residents killed in the last year of bitter conflict.

Work on Shatila's shell-holed public buildings began on Nov. 9, after Syrian mediators succeeded in getting Amal to allow a convoy carrying 72 tonnes of cement into the camp.

The supplies donated by the Arab League were the first since 1985 allowed into the shantytown. It is ringed by Syrian peace-keeping troops but remains under partial siege from Amal.

Another convoy reached nearby Bourj Al Barajneh camp, where as in Shatila, only women and children are allowed to venture in and out. The men, as suspected fighters, are trapped inside.

Children in Shatila race to meet their mothers back from shopping outside the camp, which is 200 metres square.

As Jihad and friends worked, other commandos with pistols and sub-machineguns patrolled the narrow alleyways, partly choked by mounds of rubble and pools of mud fed by sewers

broken in the fighting. Shatila, with a population of 3,500 in 1984, was the worst damaged of Lebanon's 12 Palestinian refugee camps by the "camps war" which killed 2,500 people and wounded thousands.

Amal said it had to put the camps under siege to choke a Palestinian military resurgence before it led to an Israeli invasion like the 1982 thrust to expel Palestinian commandos.

Palestinian groups, however, said Amal wanted to end their ability to protect the 300,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

During the 1982 Israeli invasion, Lebanese Falangist militiamen were allowed into Sabra and Shatila, where they massacred hundreds of Palestinian men, women and children.

Issa Framawi, a member of Shatila's Reconstruction Committee, said a joint Palestinian-Amal committee had agreed to the immediate repair of the hospital, mosque and schools.

"But what is more important is to repair the houses," he said. "We are anxiously awaiting word to start that."

A U.N. official said the major health hazards in Shatila, respiratory tract problems, rheumatism

and arthritis, were linked to the damp and cold. The number of cases was increasing. "It's pitiful," said the official who visited the camp. "Families after families sitting in the dark cold and wet."

Amal has said more supplies will be allowed into Beirut camps once Palestinian commandos quit villages they captured last year near the southern port of Sidon.

But negotiations for a Palestinian pullback are deadlocked because of what Western diplomats said were fears that Amal would hand over control of the village to the Syrian army.

"All politicians and leaders should separate the political issue from the humanitarian one," Framawi said. "With winter now we are living a real tragedy as all the houses were destroyed."

"The first shipment of building supplies boosted the morale of the refugees," said Chris Giarou, a Greek-Canadian doctor who has worked at Shatila's makeshift hospital for two years.

"But they have become impatient. They have been under siege for two years and they adapted to that, but when you see light at the end of the tunnel you become impatient."

Kuwait sentences youths for subversion

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's state security court convicted two Kuwaiti teenagers on Saturday of distributing leaflets calling for the overthrow of the government.

The Kuwait News Agency KUNA said Abdul Aziz Abbas Al Shati, 18, was jailed for four years at hard labour while Haidar Abdullah Ibn Nakhai, 17, was

sentenced in absentia to two years.

KUNA said they were found guilty of "distributing leaflets that included an incitement to overthrow the ruling system in the country and defy the authority of the emirate."

Nearly 40 Kuwaitis, most of

them believed to be pro-Iranian militants, were arrested in January and charged with anti-state activities. Ten were later jailed for between six months and seven years.

Six Kuwaitis were sentenced to death in June for involvement in bombings at oil installations.

Mahdi reports no progress in talks with Haile Mariam

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi has said his talks with Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam were held in a frank and serious atmosphere.

But he did not report any progress in defusing tension between the two countries.

Speaking to reporters on his arrival from Kampala, where he held two rounds of talks with Mr. Haile Mariam, Mr. Mahdi said the two sides decided to set up a joint committee to look into bilateral problems.

He did not say when the committee would meet.

Sudan accused neighbouring Ethiopia last month of helping anti-government Sudanese rebels to capture the border town of Kurnuk.

It said the town, some 600 kilometres south east of Khartoum, was heavily shelled for several days from inside Ethiopia before it fell on Nov. 12.

Ethiopia, which accuses the Khartoum government of supporting secessionist rebels fighting its troops, has denied the charges.

"I cannot say more at this stage," Mr. Mahdi said.

U.S. couple convicted in bid to break Libya trade embargo

SAN DIEGO, California (AP) — Two Americans have been found guilty of providing oil equipment to Libya in violation of a presidential embargo, authorities said.

A jury deliberated two days before returning the verdicts Friday against George Smith, 50, and Cheryl Smith, 37, of Gretna, Louisiana.

The Smiths, owners of the Louisiana-based Oil Patch Production Service Inc., were convicted of all 11 counts — five of illegal exports to Libya, five of making false statements and one

of conspiracy to defraud the United States.

Each faces a maximum prison term of 30 years and \$2.75-million fine. U.S. District Judge Rudi Brewster ordered the Smiths jailed pending a Jan. 19 sentencing hearing.

The Smiths were arrested in January, along with Scottish businessman Francis George Christie after a government operation revealed the three had violated the trade embargo by arranging an oil equipment shipment to Libya.

Genscher to discuss Mideast peace with Mubarak

CAIRO (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said in an interview published on Saturday he would discuss Middle East peace efforts and regional issues with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak next week.

Mr. Genscher, due to arrive in Cairo on Monday for a two-day official visit, told Egypt's Middle East News Agency his talks would also cover ties between Egypt and West Germany.

He said he would sign two agreements. The first rescheduled government and commercial debt owed by Egypt to West Germany. The second aimed at avoiding double taxation in transactions between the two countries.

Sources close to the rescheduling negotiations said the debt agreement, reached in line with an accord between Egypt and the Paris Club of creditor nations in May, covered 870 million marks (\$524 million) in arrears and dues up to the end of June 1988.

The Paris Club deal provides for rescheduling about a quarter of Egypt's foreign debt of nearly \$40 billion, mostly owed to governments rather than commercial banks.

N. Yemen denies clashes with South

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (R) — North Yemen's foreign minister, in an interview published on Saturday, denied his country had border clashes with South Yemen.

The minister, Abdul Karim Ariani, said the presence of ousted South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammad in the North had not led to armed conflict between the two Yemens as some Arab newspapers intermittently reported.

"There have never been any armed clashes," Mr. Ariani told the Gulf newspaper Al Khaleej.

Mr. Mohammad and his men sought refuge in the North after a

bloody internal war in January 1986. Aden's new rulers demanded he be sent home to stand trial for the fighting in which more than 10,000 people died.

It accused Sanaa of making a military camp available to Mr. Mohammad, who has threatened to retake power.

"Ali Nasser and his men were offered only houses," Mr. Ariani said. "No such camp has been provided."

He said repatriating the deposed president was "out of the question" but denied that the issue was an obstacle to moves for re-unifying the two countries.

The two states were on the verge of unity before Mr. Ali Nasser was toppled, and Mr. Ariani said the move needed only "a bold decision."

He said North Yemen's first oil exports would start this month but said it would not join the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"We will start oil exports before the end of this year at a daily average of 150,000 bpd (barrel per day), to be raised later to 200,000 bpd," Mr. Ariani said. "It is still a modest output which does not necessitate joining OPEC."

U.N. issues new call for Saharan peace talks

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The General Assembly has issued a new call to Morocco and the Polisario Front to hold direct negotiations for a ceasefire in the Western Sahara to create conditions for a referendum in the disputed territory.

The vote on the resolution, called up from the Assembly's Decolonisation Committee, was 93 in favour and none against, with 50 abstentions.

Polisario, which is backed by Algeria, challenges Moroccan rule over the former Spanish territory.

Morocco did not vote on the resolution, which reaffirmed that the question of Western Sahara was one of decolonisation that remained to be completed on the basis of the exercise by the people of their right to self-determination and independence.

It also reaffirmed that the solu-

tion of the question lay in the implementation of a decision adopted by the beads of state or government of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The resolution took note of decision by the chairman of the OAU and the U.N. secretary general to despatch a technical mission to Western Sahara. The mission is gathering data to be arranged a ceasefire and a referendum.

Egypt seizes 24 truckloads of smuggled goods

ASWAN, Egypt (R) — Police seized 24 truckloads of smuggled consumer goods headed for Sudan and arrested 19 Egyptians and Sudanese after a desert gunfight, border guards have said.

They said police chased and detained the smugglers on Tuesday after an exchange of fire in Egypt's eastern desert, about 90 kilometres east of the southern

city of Aswan. Police were still looking for 35 men who escaped.

The goods, worth about one million pounds (\$450,000), included refrigerator motors, car tyres, chicken cubes, black pepper, shoes and imported cigarettes.

Imports of consumer goods are severely restricted in Sudan, one

of Africa's poorest countries.

In the past four months police have reported two hauls of narcotics being smuggled into Egypt from Sudan on the eastern desert border.

But this week's arrests were the first reported case of overland smuggling into Sudan from its northern neighbour.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77411-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30	Koran
15:50	Programme Review
15:55	Dennis the Menace
16:20	Punky Brewster
16:45	Children's Scientific programme
17:10	Walt Disney
18:00	Local Agricultural programme
18:25	Soccer
19:15	Local programme
19:50	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme on Arabic
22:00	T.V. Magazine (local)
23:00	News Summary
23:10	Close down

PROGRAMME TWO

16:45	"Des chiffres et des lettres"
18:00	Rue Carrée
18:30	L'Ecole des Femmes
19:00	News in French
19:15	French Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Your Diet
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Charles in Charge
21:10	The Paper Clip Conspiracy (documentary)
22:00	News in English
22:20	The Love Boat
23:10	The Equalizer

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 90 MHz FM
& partly on 95.0 KHz. SW
Tel: 77411-19

07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
11:05	In Concert
12:00	News Summary
12:05	Pop Talk
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session cont.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumentals
14:30	Science Report
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instrumentals
16:30	Old Favourites
17:00	Science Report
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Listener's Choice
19:00	Newsdesk
19:30	Music with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show continued

21:55	News Summary
22:00	Evening Show continued
22:30	News Summary
23:00	News Headline
23:57	Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

6.30, 7.30, 12.15 KHz

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VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 12.40 & SW 7.20, 9.50, 11.74,
11.23 and 12.10 Hz

06:00	News
07:10	VOA Morning
08:00	News
08:10	VOA Morning
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All health centres to have laboratories soon

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health will soon install laboratories in all health centres throughout the Kingdom, in order to provide laboratory services for all citizens and relieve hospitals from part of their duty, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh announced here on Saturday.

Speaking during an inspection tour of the Mafraq region, Dr. Hamzeh encouraged all health centres to intensify their programmes for spreading awareness among the local communities and in schools.

The minister toured five health centres in Mafraq and the eastern badia region and met with officials and citizens concerned with health services in these areas.

During the tour, the minister laid the foundation stone for a comprehensive health centre in

the Sahaba region. The new centre will provide 24-hour medical services to citizens and travellers along the Amman-Baghdad route, where the new centre is located, the minister said.

Later, the minister laid the foundation stone for another health centre in the town of Sama Al Sarhan, which will offer mother and child care, dentistry and other essential services.

Dr. Hamzeh then opened Um Sarb health centre, which will offer medical care to badia residents, and announced that more health centres will be built in the region once plots of land were assigned for the projects.

The minister was accompanied on the tour by Mafraq Governor Faysal Abbadi and heads of local government departments.



Her Majesty Queen Zein, the Queen Mother on Saturday is presented with a replica of the Holy Dome of the Rock by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan and President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib (Petra photo)

Seminar on human resources management opens with call for effective administration

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday stressed the need for a qualified administrative system that would help to achieve the objectives of development. "An effective administrative system plays a leading role in the life of a developing nation which seeks prosperity through development schemes," Prince Hassan said in a speech read out on his behalf by Minister of Justice Riad Al Shaka'a at the opening of a seminar on human resources management in Arab countries.

Prince Hassan said that political independence can best be maintained by enhancing the country's economic development, which includes human resources management. "The aim of social and economic development plans should be raising the standard of living and improving the quality of life for the community and this can come about through developing human resources," the Crown Prince noted.

In the speech, Prince Hassan referred to a royal commission for the development of civil service in Jordan and said that the commission has made provisions for ensuring improved and stable conditions for government employees, in order to encourage them to be more creative and efficient. The commission has also begun working out job descriptions clarifying the duties of government employees, Prince Hassan said.

The Crown Prince called on developing nations to give proper attention to human resources

management, which is an essential factor in development, and which is one of the priorities in Jordan's current five-year plan.

Another speaker at the opening session of the five-day meeting was Dr. Hashem Al Dahhas, director of the Audit Bureau, who underlined the importance of human resources management in auditing and accountancy services in the Arab World.

The participants in the seminar will study subjects related to human resources management, personnel control and employment strategies for Arab organisations.

Directors of audit bureaus and personnel services in Arab countries are taking part in the meetings, along with representatives from Austria and Canada.

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The meeting was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the chairperson of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund.

The occasion reminds the Jordanian public of the efforts of the Queen Mother towards promoting the Jordanian women's movement that goes hand in hand with the general development in the country. The Queen Mother has contributed effectively and positively in stimulating social and humanitarian work by continuous support of charitable societies and her active participation in their work.

The Queen Mother chaired the first women's society in Jordan in 1944 and later led other societies offering humanitarian and voluntary services to the public.

The presentation of the shield to the Queen Mother at Zahran Palace was one of the main activities marking International Voluntary Day.

Mr. Haj Hassan later deputised for King Hussein in attending a

Queen Mother laureated for role in promoting voluntary work in Kingdom

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Zein, the Queen Mother, on Saturday received the Golden Voluntary Work Shield and a model of the Holy Dome of the Rock from representatives of voluntary organisations in Jordan, in recognition of her major role in promoting voluntary work in the Kingdom.

The shield was presented by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, who spoke on the occasion, expressing the organisation's appreciation of the Queen's efforts in various fields of voluntary work.

"Thousands of voluntary workers who devoted their efforts to serving Jordan and the Jordanian people consider Your Majesty as a symbol and a pioneer of the voluntary work movement, which has developed and advanced tremendously through your support and the care of His Majesty King Hussein," the minister said.

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Mr. Haj Hassan later deputised for King Hussein in attending a

ceremony at the Royal Cultural Centre honouring pioneers of the voluntary movement in Jordan.

The minister addressed the ceremony, conveying greetings from the King to the participants and to all voluntary workers throughout the country.

"Jordan is proud of its voluntary movement, which has been supported over the years by the King and the successive governments, working under his guidance as part of an all-out effort towards reconstruction and development," Mr. Haj Hassan said.

"The Ministry of Social Development," he continued, "looks forward to better and even more extensive service by voluntary organisations, for the benefit of the whole country."

The ministry hopes to promote its cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund, the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and the General Federation of Jordanian Women," Mr. Haj Hassan added.

"At present the ministry is working in coordination with GUVS to help charitable societies in the Kingdom update and intensify their work, so that they can offer better service to the community," he noted.

Mr. Haj Hassan said that the creation of the National Aid Fund was one step towards promoting voluntary work in the country, because it would help the organisations "to provide assistance and protection to less fortunate members of the Jordanian

family."

The minister also paid tribute to the women's unions and their voluntary work. In addition, he voiced Jordan's appreciation to Arab countries which extend financial help to voluntary organisations operating in the Kingdom.

GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib also spoke at the ceremony, describing voluntary and charitable work as a national duty and as part of the efforts towards building up the country.

Dr. Khatib reviewed GUVS activities, noting that the organisation has been financing the university education of 400 needy students, as well as providing JD 75,000 to the National Aid Fund, to be used for supporting poor families. GUVS also provided JD 300,000 to charitable and voluntary societies in the occupied West Bank to help alleviate the suffering of the Arabs living under Israeli rule. Dr. Khatib noted.

During the ceremony, a number of pioneers in voluntary work in Jordan were honoured with royal medals presented by Mr. Haj Hassan. They included: Mrs. Zuleikha Al Shaabi, Mrs. Samiyya Al Mujali, Mrs. Andaliyah Al Amad, Mrs. Salwa Shweilat, Mr. Abdullah Abul Atia, Mr. Haroon Hijazi and Mr. Mohammad Al Rousan. Two of the honoured pioneers have passed away.

The minister later presented the GUVS shield to representatives of 20 Jordanian organisations that care for children and old people and provide other humanitarian services.

The celebration was part of Jordan's observance of International Voluntary Day. The celebrations will last for five days, covering all governorates, and will include seminars, public awareness campaigns and other activities.

Italy to assist Jordan in building vocational school

By a Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Italy on Saturday signed a five-year protocol for the establishment of a vocational school for graphic arts, to be located on the grounds of the Marka Polytechnic.

The agreement was signed on Jordan's behalf by Minister of Planning Dr. Taher Kanaan, and on the Italian side by Italian Ambassador to Jordan Dr. Luigi Amaduzzi.

The project, which is included in the 1986-1990 five-year plan, aims at meeting the increasing need of printing presses for skilled workers and technicians, with a view to upgrading efficiency and producing high-quality printed materials for the Jordanian and Arab markets.

It involves constructing and equipping a printing school to accommodate 360 students at the secondary vocational level and 240 students at the training centre level.

The school will be organised into the following sections: photocopying, photoreproductions, photolithography, offset printing, binding, graphic design, technology workshop and maintenance.

While the Jordanian government has provided the land and built the required premises, the Italian contribution shall consist of: technical machinery and assistance, teaching publications, expertise and scholarships to 28 Jordanian instructors for training courses in Italy.

The project, which follows the creation of a training centre for electricians at the Zarqa industrial school (completed in 1986), the realisation of a handicraft school in Salt and the establishment of a pilot quarry plant for the exploitation of limestone in Maan, is a further significant example of the Italian support to the promotion of vocational occupations in Jordan.

Fayez reported in very good condition after surgery

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Akel Al Fayez, who underwent a successful surgery at an American hospital recently, was reported to be in "very good condition" on Saturday.

According to Parliament's secretary-general, Mr. Hani Kheir, Mr. Fayez is expected to be discharged from a Houston, Texas hospital within a week.

Mr. Fayez, 66, was operated on this past Wednesday.

On Friday, His Majesty King

Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, personal representative of the King, telephoned Mr. Fayez to inquire about the progress of his recovery. The King congratulated Mr. Fayez on the success of his operation and wished him a speedy recovery.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, a number of ministers, senators and deputies also telephoned Mr. Fayez and wished him a quick recovery.

Jordan to sell Egypt 75,000 tonnes of cement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is to sell Egypt 75,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement, in accordance with a new agreement concluded in Cairo during a visit by the director-general of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC), Khalidoun Al Zaher.

Dr. Zaher, in statement upon his return here on Saturday, said that agreement was concluded

after four days of talks with Egyptian officials from the Al Naser Import-Export Company and the offices in charge of importing cement.

Last year, Jordan sold 650,000 tonnes of cement to Egypt and is expected to sell more quantities, in accordance with an earlier agreement which provided for the sale of a total of 75,000 tonnes.

IPA, World Bank discuss potential cooperation agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the World Bank on Saturday visited the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and discussed the signing of an agreement between the two sides.

The agreement would consider the IPA as a partner to the World Bank's Institute for Economic Development and as a regional centre for organising World Bank-sponsored seminars, conferences and studies in the countries of the Middle East.

The delegation examined the IPA's potentials and activities and, in particular, its research and training programmes. IPA Director Mr. Abdullah Ulayyan discussed with the delegation cooperation in implementing IPA plans in Jordan.

Agreement was reached during the talks on holding a World Bank-sponsored seminar on administrative training to be held in Amman next year.

Workshops on animal disease, veterinary vaccine open

AMMAN (Petra) — Two workshops on the implementation and evaluation of projects for combating animal diseases and the production of veterinary vaccines began here on Saturday. The workshops are organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and the West German development agency GTZ.

Deputising for Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud, the ministry's under-secretary, Salem Al Lawzi, spoke at the opening of the workshops, noting that the disease-combating project, currently being implemented in cooperation with the West German government, was the first of its kind in the Arab World. Dr. Lawzi said the project involves conducting a survey of epidemic animal diseases in Jordan, with the aim of designing a scientific plan for studying and combating these diseases.

He said that the veterinary vaccines project intends to meet the Kingdom's need for vaccines, which amounts to 100 million doses, in addition to producing 70 million doses for export.

Royal Theatre Company brings back magic, mystery to age-old tale of Aladdin

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Since the time it was first told, the story of Aladdin and his lamp — one of the most popular of Shehrazade's thousand and one tales — has been an enduring source of wonder and delight to children and adults of all ages, and the Royal Theatre Company's version, opening this week at the Royal Cultural Centre, promises to retain all the mystery and magic of the age-old classic.

This new production has been written especially for the Royal Theatre Company by one of Jordan's most popular actors and playwrights, Nabil Sawalha. Performed in Arabic, the play fulfills one of the original aims of the company: that of producing a new play in Arabic, preferably for children, with an oriental theme.

"There was no worthwhile script of Aladdin available," the play's director, Vanessa Batrouni, told the Jordan Times, "apart from only very short children's sketches, and the British pantomime of Aladdin is a completely adulterated and corrupted version of the story which fails to grasp the spirit of the play. We wanted to go back to the original story, which is very beautiful, rich in mythology, magic and mystery, and so we approached Mr. Sawalha to adapt the story for us."

"In Mr. Sawalha's version, the element of fatalism is very strong," Mrs. Batrouni continued, "and there is a sense of magic running throughout the play. Whereas the mortals are more important in the pantomime version, and the magic is merely incidental to the main action of the play; in our production there is a balance between the mortals and the magic."

In Shehrazade's original story, Aladdin is not a very nice person. He's lazy, cowardly, and worse, a petty thief. In fact, Aladdin is the typical anti-hero, but a very lucky one, whose life is made for him by a chance encounter with a benevolent genie.

In the Batrouni-Sawalha production, Aladdin is kept as an anti-hero to give him some depth as a character. The other characters in this rather brief story have also been developed, so as to create interesting personalities, within the context of the original theme of the play — the forces of good battling the forces of evil. It is these characters which are emphasised in the play, rather than the usual Hollywood razzamatazz of glittering jewels, large stomachs and special effects.

"We are trying to work towards an elegant production with no effects for the sake of effects and with an emphasis on the story and the actors," Mr. Sawalha said.

The eight actors, including Mr. Sawalha who plays principally the wicked magician, are all well-known artists with extensive experience on television and stage. Munir Kadoumi plays the lead role of Aladdin; Yousef Yousef takes the roles of the Wazir and Sharayan; and Rania Fahed plays the heroine, Princess Marjan.

Being both the author of the play and performing a major role in it presents some problems for Mr. Sawalha; but, on the whole, he has found it to be a "worthwhile experience." "Although I'm writing plays for the Amman Baccalaureate School (where Mr. Sawalha teaches part-time, in addition to acting as director of the Haya Arts Centre), I'm not a writer," Mr. Sawalha explained, "I've never been able to sit. But the good thing about being an actor/writer is that you can change the lines, as is inevitably the case, yourself. Once I become an actor I am able to detach myself from the feeling of being a writer and, luckily, I am not

possessive about my lines, as many authors are. The only thing is that I might find myself more demanding of the other actors when I see the thought behind the lines not coming over as I envisaged."

Mrs. Batrouni also finds working on this production of Aladdin "exciting because it is quite experimental. As well as trying to convey the idea that the play is a story within a story by means of a narrator, there is also a dramatically different approach to the music, costumes and sets. The costumes and sets have been interpreted with soft and supple fabrics, so as to create a flowing effect."

The music consists solely of percussion instruments — tabla, drums, woodblocks, chimes and tambourine — played throughout the production, giving the element of simplicity and rawness that both Mrs. Batrouni and Mr. Sawalha were looking for. The songs are extremely different and interesting, seeming like accented chants that develop out of the natural rhythm of the speech.

After the performances in Amman, the Royal Theatre Company, in cooperation with the Haya Arts Centre, which is co-producing the play, hopes to take the show on tour both in Jordan and in other Arab countries. Mr. Sawalha and Mrs. Batrouni are in the process of translating the play into English, so that, eventually, they can present it in theatres in London and other parts of the English-speaking world.

In the meantime, for those here in Amman, it is an event that should not be missed. The play opens on Monday, Dec. 7 and will run nightly, except for Fridays, for two weeks. There will be matinee performances on Thursday, Dec. 10 and on Thursday Dec. 17. Tickets are available from the Royal Cultural Centre at JD 3 for adults and JD 1.5 for children and students.

Jordan Glass Industries Company makes remarkable recovery from near-collapse

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The ailing Jordan Glass Industries Company (JGIC), once on the verge of total collapse, is now approaching safe shores after narrowing 1987 losses to one-third of last year's JD 1.5 million deficit.

With the launching of the company's long-awaited "tinted glass" into the local and Arab markets earlier last month, JGIC anticipates a minimum of JD 800,000 in profits in 1988 — an amount equal to 10 per cent of the company's JD 8.1 million paid-up capital.

The addition of tinted glass to the company's other line of production — clear, white glass — will sharply drum up profits, considering that the production cost of tinted glass is only five per cent more than that of the white glass, while the market price of the new product exceeds that of white glass by between 100 to 150 per cent in both the local and international markets.

Prior to the unveiling of this new type of glass on Nov. 15, "we were sitting on a pinprick of profit," said that date, our company has bypassed the most critical stages of its development," JGIC Chairman of the Board and Director-General Farhi Obaid told a local press conference on Saturday.

"The company could have avoided incurring so many losses over the past three years had it started the marketing of tinted glass earlier than now," Mr. Obaid said. "He has been holding his position since May 1986, before which he was minister of transport."

However, he maintained that the company needed time to overcome certain "technical difficulties" which developed in the company's three main production machines and affected the quality and clarity of glass produced.

Available figures indicate that 50 per cent of last year's daily production of 50 tonnes was filled "with bubbles and impurities," due to these technical problems. He said the company had overcome technical problems with two of these machines and the problems with the third were remarkably minimised.

"The quality of our tinted glass meets the international standard, and our prices have been designed to allow us to compete in

the international market," Mr. Obaid said.

Local glass traders have hailed the quality of the company's tinted glass, saying it was of equal quality and standard to that which they had imported from international markets, in general, and from Belgium, in particular, Mr. Obaid added.

He explained that each square metre of tinted glass, if imported to Jordan, would cost almost JD 5, including shipping and customs charges. "We will be selling each square metre of tinted glass to the local retailers at JD 5," Mr. Obaid noted.

In 1986, the government banned imports of white glass as part of a drive to protect local producers. Now, tinted glass will enjoy the same protection.

Strict measures to cut down on JGIC administrative expenses helped save up to JD 300,000 in 1987, eventually reducing the cost of production per tonne to around JD 150 this year from the 1986 cost of JD 192 per tonne. Next year's production cost is anticipated at JD 120 per tonne.

The company's actual production started in June 1984, ten years after it was set up on paper. The two kinds of glass are produced under franchise and supervision by the renowned Belgian company Glaverbe and its experts, who work closely with a team of technical consultants from the Polish company Polmexcekokop.

According to Mr. Obaid, losses incurred by the Maan-based company reached JD 500,000 in 1987, in contrast with JD 1.5 million in 1986, thanks to a series of "austerity measures" and new management and production policies which were executed throughout the past two years.

The company's 1985 deficit stood at JD 2.5 million.

Moreover, the company's turbulent financial and administrative history dates back to 1984, when disagreements among the company's previous board of directors resulted in a deadlock which forced the Glaverbe to pull out from JGIC at the end of the experimental phase of production. Subsequently, the total production dropped down to 2.5 from 70 tonnes per day.

However, after the return of the Belgian company in 1986 and the assistance given by the Polish consultants, production increased

to 19 tonnes, and later 50 tonnes per day by the end of last year. The 1988 output neared 60 tonnes per day.

Economic experts attribute the financial losses incurred by the company to the fact that the cost of production is fixed according to the plant's production capacity of 75 tonnes; rather than to its actual output.

The company operates its plant round the clock on a three-shift basis, employing about 255 workers, out of which are 32 Arab and foreign experts. Ninety per cent of the total employees come from Maan Governorate.

JGIC's machinery has been designed to work non-stop for seven years, starting from 1984 and ending in 1991.

The main step taken to salvage the company's financial situation was raising its capital from JD 5 million to JD 9 million in 1986. The increase in capital was achieved by writing off JD 2.5 million of its losses, capitalising JD 3.5 million of the government loans extended to the company and increasing the capital by JD 2 million, which was provided by the Social Security Corporation, the Housing Bank, the Industrial Development Bank and other commercial banks. In addition, the grace period for servicing the company's debts was extended from four to eight years. The remainder of the government loans to the company were rescheduled with an eight per cent interest rate.

The company also negotiated a reduction of its financial commitments to five foreign companies, in order to facilitate payments of nearly JD 1.2 million.

Forty per cent of the company's annual estimated gross production of 27,000 tonnes is marketed locally. It is expected that 2,500 tonnes of tinted glass will be absorbed by the local market during next year.

Mr. Obaid said the company's exports of white glass to Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and North Yemen this year reached 40 per cent. The company is carrying out negotiations to market the remainder of its production — 20 per cent — in Tunisia, Kuwait and Sudan.

Mr. Obaid expressed hope that the company's 1988 target of 21,000 tonnes will all be sold to neighbouring Arab countries, in addition to the local market.

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The superpower summit's reach: How far?

WORLD attention is riveted on Washington, where Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is set to meet with President Ronald Reagan tomorrow. The centrepiece of their summit agenda will be the formal signing of the intermediate range nuclear forces (INF) treaty, designed to eliminate a whole category of land-based medium range and shorter range nuclear missiles from Europe.

Politically, the INF treaty will remain a landmark in contemporary arms control-disarmament history. Both Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev, who appear to believe in a world free of nuclear weapons in order to ensure peace and security, must be duly credited with displaying unprecedented political will in achieving a breakthrough in reducing the number of nuclear weapons in Europe. In doing so, despite misgivings and scepticism voiced by hardliners, the two did carry along the support of their respective allies in forging ahead with the negotiations. The INF treaty would mean the removal and destruction of the 108 U.S.-deployed Pershing-II missiles now in West Germany and the 224 cruise missiles in West Germany, Britain, Italy and Belgium, as well as the 441 Soviet SS-20s targeted on Europe, China and Japan.

Militarily, the INF treaty does not mean much. The Pershing-IIs, cruises and SS-20s are deadly, no doubt; but the deadliest missiles that threaten world security — numbering about 50,000 and with intercontinental range — exist in the superpower arsenals. Therefore, the INF treaty has not reduced the overall capacity of the superpowers, nor has it effected any change in the doctrine of nuclear deterrence on which superpower relations have been based for so long. Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev have strongly hinted at reducing their strategic arsenals by a 50 per cent cut. As the INF is not the end of the road in arms control-disarmament negotiations, it is hoped that the summit would make real progress on the question of strategic arms reduction, as well as on other outstanding issues between the two countries. The Washington summit may spark evolution into a new era of superpower relations. There is need for perestroika (restructuring) of superpower relations — moving away from relations based on nuclear deterrence — in order to achieve the objective of global peace and security.

In addition to discussing superpower relations and the interests of their allies, the two leaders will also address important regional issues. There could be no doubt, as has often been stated by Mr. Reagan, that he will raise before Mr. Gorbachev the questions of human rights in the Soviet Union, the Soviet role in Nicaragua, its intervention in Afghanistan and its increasing influence in the Gulf. But, so far, Mr. Reagan has not said that he would confer with Mr. Gorbachev on the possibility of the resolution of the Middle East conflict through an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations. At the summit, not only Mr. Reagan has the right to pose questions, but an equal opportunity is there for Mr. Gorbachev, as well, to pose questions and elicit answers from Mr. Reagan. While the Soviet leader's views on the international conference and the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict are clearly known, it would be incumbent on him to persuade Mr. Reagan to see the conflict in its proper perspective and encourage him to accept the idea of an international conference.

The world at large will be waiting to see what the two leaders will accomplish at the summit, not only in matters related to their own interests, but also their contribution towards solving regional problems — on top of which come the festering Arab-Israeli conflict and the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Two against

THE United States and Israel have renewed their opposition to the idea of an international conference which was supported by the United Nations General Assembly. Countries of the European Community abstained from voting on the resolution for endorsing the conference idea except for Greece and Spain which supported it. The voting came as a challenge to the Arab will which emerged as a unified force at the Amman summit meeting. America's continued opposition to the conference idea is an open challenge to the Arab will, and Israel's continued intransigence means that the apparent disagreements between Shamir and Peres on the idea of the conference are nothing but a tactical ploy to win time. What draws our attention is the stand of the European Community countries which abstained from voting on the General Assembly's resolution. The community's stand emerged just a few days before the U.S.-Soviet summit meeting in Washington, and for us it seems to indicate to the Soviet Union that the Western alliance, grouping the U.S. and Europe precedes all other priorities for the Western countries and is more important than the Middle East conference. The Arab countries ought now to take a lesson from this development, and should be careful not to be carried away with empty hopes which they pin on the European nations. The Europeans have the right to reorganise their policies and their priorities in a manner that can best serve their national interests, but the Arabs also have the same right to do so and ought to reorganise their economic, trade and political priorities in a way that can serve their interests. Once the Arabs have shown the world that they adhere to their solidarity and that they cling hard to their interests in the same degree as the Europeans do, then other nations specially the Europeans would adopt more positive and realistic stands with regard to the Arab causes.

Sawt Al Shaab: Towards Arab integration

THE Arab World suffers from economic and developmental problems which include among other things lack of food security as witnessed in Sudan, and the ill-distribution of Arab capital for investment. Any economic integration within the Arab World offers a golden opportunity for the Arab manpower to build the Arab World instead of building other countries. In the light of these problems facing the Arab World we can say that the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee is helping to relieve the Arab World of some of its problems by seeking integration between two sister states. Egypt and Jordan. The committee's achievements so far should be considered an example for other Arab countries seeking integration and economic prosperity. Jordan and Egypt are in effect laying the cornerstone for a greater integration among Arab countries in all fields with the purpose of achieving further prosperity not only for the Jordanian and Egyptian peoples but also for the Arab Nation at large. We hope that the Jordanian-Egyptian experiment will be repeated by other Arab countries leading to an all out integration within the large Arab World.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Jordan and the EEC — an unbalanced relationship

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

The Jordan Times is pleased to resume the publication of Dr. Fahed Fanek's weekly column after an absence of 15 weeks. Dr. Fanek's *Economic Pulse* will appear on Sundays as had been the case before — the Editor.

THE ECONOMIC cooperation and integration between Jordan and the European Community was the subject of a two-day seminar held in Amman on Nov. 30, and Dec. 1, 1987. A number of Jordanian officials, academicians, and businessmen took part in the proceedings together with trade experts from the European Community.

One cannot but notice that the use of the term "integration" in the title of the seminar was an overstatement of the scope and objective of the relationship. The relations between Jordan and the EC are far from integration and are neither the aim of Jordan nor that of the EC.

Trade cooperation between Jordan and the EC is conspicuously one-sided and out of all proportions to be acceptable or sustainable. The huge imbalance in the exchange of commodities could not continue unless Jordan is ready to overlook its legitimate right to a just and balanced trade relationship.

Jordan imports some 31 per cent of its overall imports from the EC, which in turn buys no more than 3 per cent of Jordan's total exports. Taking into account that the size of Jordan's imports is

four times that of the exports, one can easily conclude that the balance in absolute figures is tipped in favour of the EC at the unbelievable ratio of 40 to 1.

While Jordan complains that exports of commodities are slowing down due to lack of markets rather than lack of production, it is only strange that we go on for ever importing from Europe 40 times as much as Europe imports from us. Such a state of affairs could only be seen as giving up our rights and submitting to an unfair relationship.

During the seminar, EC experts claimed and many Jordanian participants agreed, that the European market was extremely competitive, and that Jordanian exports to Europe do not only occur because a favourable trade agreement was concluded between Jordan and the community. The agreement is necessary, they say, but not sufficient. Jordanian exporters must see to it that markets are penetrated through effective marketing processes and tools, and that competitive products demanded by the community are produced and offered at the right time and place.

We are the first to admit that marketing expertise in Jordan is lacking, and that our procedures and institutions designated to penetrate overseas markets are found to be wanting, but all these deficiencies do not explain the out-of-proportion deficit in the balance of trade with Europe especially when we take into account the Jordanian production surpluses in vegetables, fruits, phos-

phates, potash, and fertilisers, which Europe can import to reduce the gap and establish an equitable and more balanced relationship that takes Jordanian interests into account.

There are substantial deficiencies in our trade agreement with the EC. Plenty of non-tariff barriers do exist to protect the European markets and prevent Jordanian and other products from competing in EC markets. Fruits and vegetables are restricted to certain months of the year, stringent quarantine conditions must be complied with, ceilings are imposed on many commodities, and flows on the percentage of domestic contents of the products must be achieved which are either too high or too difficult to prove.

A frustrated Jordanian businessman told the seminar that the administrative and technical restrictions were too tough for the Jordanian producers and exporters to even consider selling in Europe.

Perhaps it is time to reopen our files and revise and improve the trade agreement between Jordan and the EC with a view to remove or reduce barriers and restrictions inhibiting Jordanian exports and secure a minimum level of balanced flow of trade. Otherwise Jordan will sooner or later find no alternative except to shift its trade, at least in part, to other more responsive and sensitive trade partners such as the East European countries or the Third World. Europe could not for ever take the Jordanian market for granted and dump its surpluses without accommodating Jordanian needs.

Talks open on food security

(Continued from page 1)

an internal dimension but more importantly of an external one.

Indeed, food is successfully being used today as a weapon to achieve economic domination and political subservience of poor countries. In fact, Muslim countries produce only half of their food requirements and unfortunately this percentage is decreasing. Thirty Muslim countries are net importers of food with an annual bill of around \$25 billion. On the other hand, the food exports of 13 Muslim countries in 1986 totalled only around \$6 billion. This puts our countries among the biggest recipients of food aid in the world.

On the global scene, the prevailing conditions are also equally alarming. According to estimates by UNICEF (1983), between 200 and 800 million people, mostly children, are undernourished and 13 million die of starvation annually. Although the present world potential of food production is sufficient to feed six billion people, better management of agriculture, food, and a balanced diet remain badly needed.

"Serious factors of adverse effects such as soil degradation, desertification and over use of ground water have to be monitored. In this regard, adoption of advanced technologies such as remote sensing, coupled with more accurate predictions of agricultural production are essential. The present rate of population growth has given rise to many fears, most important of which is whether there will be enough land for food and at a reasonable cost. The main concern is for cultivable land, much of which is being lost to desert, salination, erosion, and increasingly to waste pollution."

"It is obvious that no single Muslim country can deal with this problem effectively without pooling together intellectual and physical resources of our Ummah. Needless to say, one should not underestimate the role of science and technology in this domain. Bio-technology, information and communication technology for the dissemination of knowledge, energy, and water resource management are of vital importance."

Experts work on declaration

(Continued from page 1)

argued that this integration could be achieved through identifying areas of mutual interests and cooperation, increasing agricultural trade among Islamic countries and focusing on import-substitute production strategies.

Speakers identified production and marketing problems of agricultural products, including insufficient funding — as in the case of poor Islamic states — inavailability of markets, trade barriers, heavy defence expenditures in some states, and finally the lack of technological know-how.

In this respect, participants emphasised the need for further cooperation among Islamic countries in terms of exchange of expertise, increase of capital flow, and investments by richer governments in the poorer ones and establishing a basis for preferential trade among OIC members.

Aziz heads for talks

(Continued from page 1)

publicly.

The secretary-general did not blame Iran by name. But his comments, coming immediately after his talks with Mr. Larjani, were clearly directed at Tehran. The Peruvian diplomat has been under pressure for nearly five months to get Iran and Iraq to carry out the U.N. Security Council's plan to end the war. Since beginning high-level talks with the two sides last summer he had refrained from characterising his mood.

Asked how the talks were going, he said he was obliged to press ahead.

"It is very difficult for me to feel frustrated because I have a mandate from the Security Council to continue," he said.

The United States believes time has run out and that the 15-nation council should enforce its Resolution 598 by imposing a worldwide arms embargo against Iran. The Soviet Union says this would be premature. Deputy U.S. Ambassador Herbert Okun and his Soviet counterpart Roland M. Timerbayev asked for the information for use in next week's summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev. The two leaders are scheduled to discuss the U.N. effort to end the Iran-Iraq war on Wednesday. Mr. Perez de Cuellar said.

Iran, Israel and the illusion of hegemony

By Salameh B. Ne'matt

AMMAN — "The Iranians will attack an American target, maybe next year, during the U.S. presidential elections," former U.S. diplomat James Akins asserted during a lecture on the Gulf war delivered at the World Affairs Council.

"They know the Americans will react," he said, basing his analysis on well-placed sources and his intimate knowledge of the region. The Iranian move, he added, is well calculated to coincide with the build up for U.S. presidential elections to produce the desired effect.

Mr. Akins said the Iranians rightly estimate there would be a huge campaign in the U.S. against American involvement in the Gulf, with election year pressure on President Reagan who needs to work for a Republican victory, thus turning the confrontation into an Iranian political victory.

"The sequence of events is not irrational," Mr. Akins told an audience of Jordanian diplomats and intellectuals at the World Affairs Council on Wednesday. He said he felt in the Arab World that it was possible to convince Khomeini to end the war, was false. "I disagree."

"The only way to end the war is by depriving Iran the money it needs to buy weapons and continue the war," he said, pointing specifically that "the destruction of Kharg oil terminals would deprive the Iranians of bullets and food."

"I would say, give the Iraqis the missiles to destroy Kharg... utterly," he said. On prospects of the U.S. providing Iraq with the weapons needed for such a mission, Mr. Akins said arms to Iraq would be defeated in Congress, hinting that such weapons would have to come from somewhere else.

Speaking to the Jordan Times following his lecture, Mr. Akins said he was not positive the Iraqis do not have the necessary weapons to neutralise Kharg oil terminals. "Why aren't they doing it if they have them?" he asked, pointing out that heavy bombs were needed for such a mission and that the French-manufactured Exocet missiles, which Iraq has, were not adequate for the job.

ate for the job.

He said an arms embargo against Iran would not be effective.

"Arab states should get together to blockade the Straits of Hormuz," he suggested. "Not a single drop of Iranian oil to get through." But, he wondered, "are they willing to do it?"

He said both the American administration and the Soviet leadership were "afraid to do much against Iran." He said such an attitude has so far undermined a possible joint effort for a blockade of Iranian oil exports towards ending the Gulf war.

Quoting informed sources, he said the Iranian regime was already facing several internal problems, including protest demonstrations in Iran. He said a recent call for 150,000 volunteers for the warfront produced only 5,000 Iranians.

On the Arab-Israeli front, the former diplomat said "Israeli leaders believe that if Baghdad falls, panic will hit all Arab countries who, terrified, would make peace with Israel on Israeli terms."

He said some Israeli leaders believe that, on the long run, they will reestablish the Jerusalem-Tehran axis, divide the Arab-World, and rule it for a millennium. These Israelis, he said, calculate that after an Iraqi defeat, only three countries would remain in the Middle East — Israel, Turkey and Iran.

Mr. Akins said "it would be interesting" to see what the Israelis are going to do about the Pakistani atomic bomb. He said Pakistan "has almost certainly exploded a nuclear device."

On Israeli hopes to divide Arab states, he said that prospects were beyond Israeli capability. He said that Riyadh, Amman and Damascus, "already accused of being Western puppets will not go to Israel and the U.S. for help."

In his lecture, the former diplomat said the Israeli role in the Iran-Iraq arms scandal and Tel Aviv's continued sales of arms to Iran in violation of U.S. laws were systematically suppressed or played down by the American government and Congress. The former ambassador to Saudi Ara-

bia said there had been "a remarkable shift in U.S. public opinion regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict," but that the shift did not reflect a change in the U.S. administration's and Congress's traditionally pro-Israeli stands in the region. He described U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his Secretary of State George Shultz as "the most pro-Israeli leaders in American history."

Describing himself as an "endangered species" for his balanced perception of the Arab-Israeli conflict and on how U.S. policy in the region should be formulated, Mr. Akins said the shift that occurred in the past few years accelerated during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. He said the majority of Americans now sympathise with the Arabs for the first time. There also has been a change in the stands of the American Jewish community which used to back "anything that Israel does."

Demonstrating the Israeli political power exercised on Capitol Hill, Mr. Akins said the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee's October report on the Gulf war described the purpose of the American naval presence in the region as to escort U.S. flagged ships. He said the reasons offered were "dangerously nebulous," but that the American media did not give the full truth to the American public.

"Our press is not so free when it comes to the Middle East," Mr. Akins told the audience. "There was no mention of the Israeli role in supplying American arms to Iran." He described the Senate report as a white wash.

Mr. Akins said the Israelis continued to provide weapons to Iran while Iranian revolutionary guards were keeping Americans

hostage in their Tehran embassy. He said reelection concerns did not allow former President Jimmy Carter to take a tough stand against Israel.

Israeli shipments of arms to Iran since 1979 is estimated to have reached between \$1 and \$1.5 billion. Israel received replacements for these arms from the United States.

The defeat of Illinois senator Charles Percy was traumatic for senators. Mr. Akins said, "Zionists went all out to defeat Percy." He said Zionist lobbyist Michael Golan of Los Angeles put \$1.5 million into Illinois to defeat Percy because of his views on the Middle East.

As a result of such a strong Zionist influence, Mr. Akins said, "congressmen and senators will raise questions that would impeach the president but not any question that would upset Israel."

At one point, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said: "We were snookered into this [Iran-gate] by Israel."

Discussing the role played by the American media, Mr. Akins said the media treatment of the Amman summit told the American public that Arabs had lost interest in the Palestinians. He said reporters like Thomas Friedman of The New York Times concluded in his analysis of the summit outcome that no discussion of Palestinians took place and that Arabs were "sick of the Palestinians."

The former ambassador attacked the long-standing U.S. policy of attempting to make Israel flexible by making it stronger. "We have turned out to be wrong. Not just wrong, but 180 degrees wrong."

Egypt urges Mideast solutions

(Continued from page 1)

agreement by the two superpowers to convene a conference would be a positive preparatory move.

Dr. Baz said Afghanistan also is "a pressing issue."

"We want to see the civil war in Afghanistan ended and the Soviet military presence there terminated," he said. "We want to see

the establishment there of a government acceptable to all the parties, a government that would guarantee the legitimate rights of all and provide stability for the Afghan people."

In Lebanon, he said the superpowers should help end the 12-year-old civil war, safeguard the country's territorial integrity and eliminate "foreign interference."

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Roots and branches of world's languages

By John Noble Wilford

PALEONTOLOGISTS ponder their fossils, archaeologists turn over ancient stones, and now scholars of linguistics are joining the search for human origins with a systematic analysis of the roots of the world's known languages. They are seeking ultimately to reconstruct the primordial language, the mother tongue of all humans.

No one expects to find a Rosetta stone for the earliest ancestral language — the written word goes back only 6,000 years. Yet humans may have developed rudimentary spoken language at least 50,000 years ago although from the evidence of fossil jaws, they probably could not have made the sound of any vowels other than a long "a."

And nor do they expect to learn that 30,000 years ago Cro-Magnon artists discussed their cave paintings in words bearing any resemblance to modern languages. Over time, even a single millennium, languages change beyond easy recognition; the old English of Beowulf in the eighth century is practically unintelligible, and 14th-century Chaucer is no snap.

However, a few linguistic experts firmly believe that, by analysing the evolution and approximate sound and meaning of certain words, they have reconstructed the basic vocabulary of a remote ancestral language that modern man has never heard nor seen. They call it Nostratic, from the Latin *noster*, meaning "our."

Nostratic was spoken in the Middle East between 12,000 and 20,000 years ago, the researchers say, and from it evolved all the European languages as well as many African and Asian languages.

Other linguists, employing the same meticulous analytical techniques, report that they have reconstructed the root languages of the first settlers of the Americas, the ancestors of the Eskimos and Indians. The knowledge could point to the origin in Asia of the first Americans and their migration patterns.

Emboldened by these reported successes, Vitaly V. Shevoroshkin, a linguist at the University of Michigan, is striving to determine some of the words of an even earlier protolanguage, the common root of Nostratic and other seemingly unrelated linguistic

branches on the family tree of prehistoric language. He believes this ancestral language, spoken 25,000 years ago, could eventually lead him to discover some of the elements of the possible primordial language.

"Ultimately, all languages, with perhaps some little exceptions, are related," Dr. Shevoroshkin said.

The search for such relationships is potentially valuable to the study of human origins by anthropologists, paleontologists and archaeologists. Finding linguistic similarities back through time could buttress other research on the human migrations from Africa to the Middle East and then throughout the world. Ancestral vocabularies could provide clues to the tools early people used, the animals they domesticated and their means of survival.

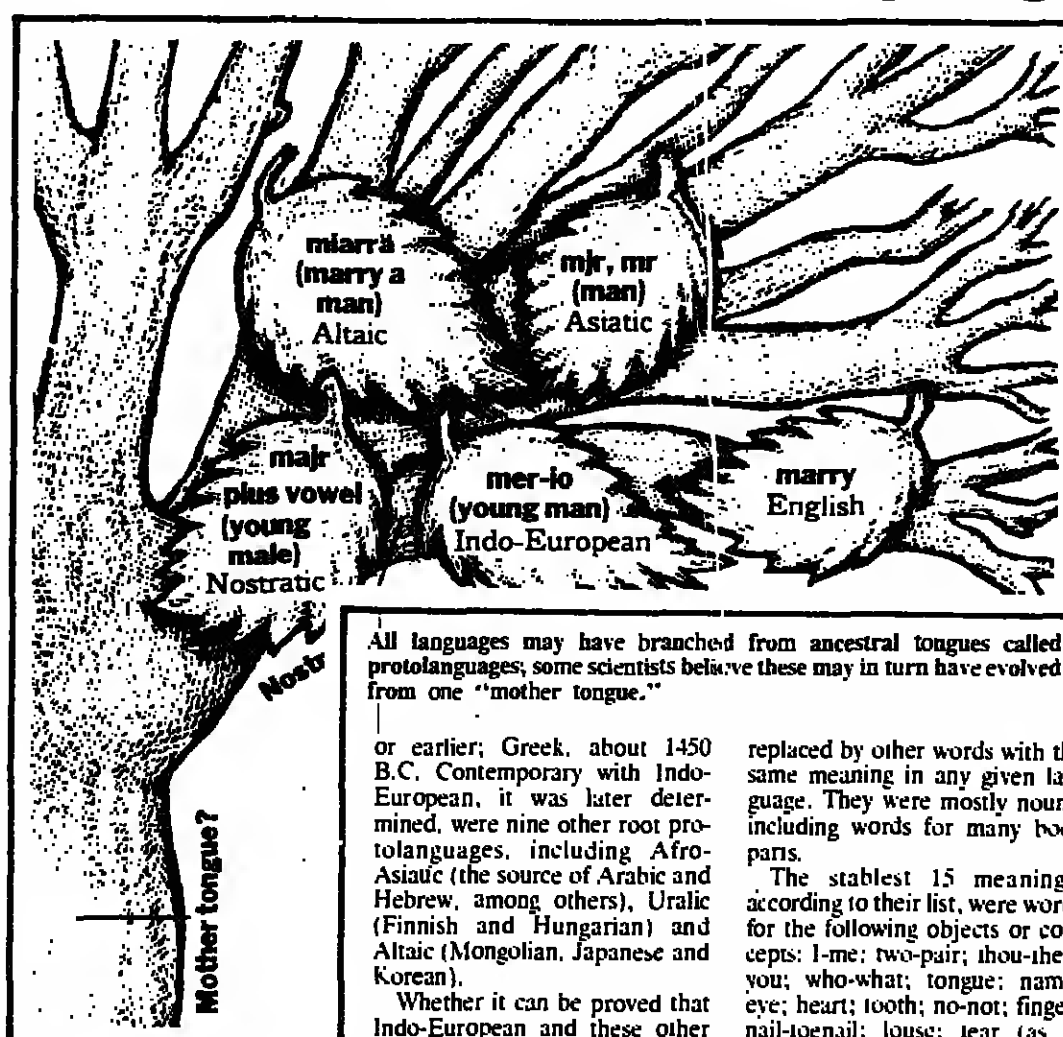
Winfred P. Lehmann, a retired professor of linguistics and Germanic languages at the University of Texas at Austin, said: "We can learn more about prehistory through language, possibly where civilization actually developed. Words give us a notion of what people were talking about, and thus something about their culture."

Like many linguistic scholars, Dr. Lehmann is sceptical of some of the conclusions reached by the "Nostratic School," as the seekers of the earliest protolanguages are called. This research was pioneered in the 1960s in the Soviet Union, where most of the work is still done. Dr. Shevoroshkin, the leading exponent in this country, emigrated to the United States 13 years ago.

The Nostratic scholars are "very ingenious and very capable," Dr. Lehmann said. "You have to respect the idea that all the languages were related 25,000 years ago. But the grounds for their conclusions are not always convincing. If you go back a few thousand years, comparing words and languages, pretty soon you have so few related words left that you have nothing to compare."

For this reason, linguists have generally despaired of ever tracing the lineage of languages back beyond about 5,000 B.C., and are dubious of the new attempts to do so.

Relationships of modern languages are usually apparent. Similarities among Italian, Span-



All languages may have branched from ancestral tongues called protolanguages; some scientists believe these may in turn have evolved from one "mother tongue."

or earlier; Greek, about 1450 B.C. Contemporary with Indo-European, it was later determined, were nine other root protolanguages, including Afro-Asiatic (the source of Arabic and Hebrew, among others), Uralic (Finnish and Hungarian) and Altaic (Mongolian, Japanese and Korean).

Whether it can be proved that Indo-European and these other protolanguages were related, through a common tongue back in time, is a matter of dispute among linguists, except for disciples of the Nostratic School.

In 1963, two Soviet linguists, Vladislav M. Illich-Svitych and Aaron Dolgopolsky, independently arrived at some words that they said were probably in the vocabulary of the common ancestral language about 12,000 years ago. The Nostratic dictionary has now been expanded to more than 500 words.

Dr. Shevoroshkin, who was a colleague of Dr. Dolgopolsky before they left the Soviet Union, said the reconstruction of such an ancestral language began by trying to find in each descendant language words and phonetic patterns that were the most archaic, and hence probably from an earlier language. An important step in this analysis was determining the most stable words through time, which Dr. Dolgopolsky did after examining 140 languages of Europe and Asia.

These words represent meanings that are seldom or never

replaced by other words with the same meaning in any given language. They were mostly nouns, including words for many body parts.

The stablest 15 meanings, according to their list, were words for the following objects or concepts: I-me; two-pair; thou-thee-you; who-what; tongue; name; eye; heart; tooth; no-not; finger-nail-toenail; louse; tear (as in weeping); water; and dead.

By studying words with these meanings in many languages, and then expanding the list, the scholars began to see similarities in the use of vowels and consonants and general patterns for shifts in the typical sounds that make up words.

In this way, Soviet scholars established that Nostratic for "I" was "mi," and for "me" was "mi-n." — the upper-case V denoting a vowel whose sound is undetermined. In Indo-European, it was "me" and "mene," and similar words have survived in modern languages.

The Nostratic "kuni," for wife or woman, becomes in Altaic "kuni," in Afro-Asiatic "KwVn" (the upper-case K symbolises a glottal sound) and in Indo-European "gwen." The Indo-European word survived into Middle English and is the root of the English "queen."

Dr. Shevoroshkin complains that out of ignorance and skepticism scholars in the United States are discouraged from pursuing Nostratic techniques for recon-

structing protolanguages. His applications for research grants have been repeatedly rejected. When he taught at Yale University, before joining the Michigan faculty, he said he was told "not to discuss Nostratic theory in my classes."

Soviet linguists continue the research, however, and have reconstructed another protolanguage that was probably contemporary to Nostratic: Dene-Caucasian, the mother tongue of Chinese, among other Asian languages. One of its offshoots is believed to be the Na-Dene family of languages, whose speakers were among the first migrants to America.

Joseph Greenberg, a retired professor of linguistics at Stanford University, has applied similar analytical techniques to try to demonstrate that all the languages of the native Americans stemmed from three protolanguages. Besides Na-Dene, he says, there was Eskimo-Aleut, which derived from Nostratic and is therefore closer to the tongue of America's eventual conquerors, and an independent grouping that Greenberg calls Amerind.

According to Dr. Greenberg and his colleague, Merritt Ruhlen, the fact that the Amerind family of languages is more widely scattered in both North and South America indicates that these were probably the first migrants to the New World.

In a recent article in *Natural History* magazine, Dr. Ruhlen, the author of "A Guide to the World's Languages," wrote: "There is strong evidence for three migrations in that each of the three New World families appears to be more closely related to language families in the Old World than to either of the other two New World families."

Visitors to Dr. Shevoroshkin's office in Ann Arbor, Michigan, are handed a poem written in Nostratic that conveys the sense of promise felt by those who search for protolanguages, as well as recognition of the controversy surrounding their efforts. Roughly translated, the poem reads:

Language — ford through river of time.

It leads us to the dwelling of dead.

But those cannot arrive there, Who are afraid of deep water — The New York Times.

New TV series features bedouins' judicial system

By Sana Atiyeh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A television drama series on the bedouin judicial system has been filmed in the Mujaqar desert — 50 kilometres east of Amman — for the first time in the Arab World.

Footed "Stories from the Bedouins," this TV series is unlike the large number of other bedouin "soap operas" that have been made in Jordan.

According to the writer of the series, Ahmed Oweidi Al Abbadi, a Ph.D. in Jordanian Social Anthropology Affairs from Cambridge University in England, the bedouin shows that are televised are "not really bedouin series. They do not follow the specific qualifications and characteristics of the bedouin way of life."

Dr. Abbadi told the Jordan Times that bedouin TV shows should conform with bedouin mentality and history. "The customs and lore concerning bedouin speech and behaviour during the filming should be noted. For example, bedouins serve the coffee differently from what is normally shown on TV. There are specific ways to hold the cups and pot, the server's position, the notion of the hand, and so on," Dr. Abbadi explained.

He went on to say that the typical bedouin TV series do not portray the bedouin's dialogue, accent, costumes, accessories, furniture, or the atmosphere as a whole. "For example, many of these shows have the characters without their head-dresses. Bedouin men and women must always have their heads covered; otherwise, it is considered shameful," Dr. Abbadi said.

He added that bedouin series must be written by experts in the field, not only for the bedouin

audience, but also for "the interests of the media and non-bedouin viewers."

Dr. Abbadi, himself a Jordanian bedouin, considers himself an expert in bedouin customs and traditions. His Ph.D. covered the judicial process among the Jordanian tribes. He is the author of 17 books on Jordan, including one in English, entitled "Bedouin Justice in Jordan." He has also translated seven books on Jordan from English to Arabic.

"Stories from the Bedouins," whose filming ended recently, is what Dr. Abbadi called a "translation of my thesis." Each of the 13 episodes is independent, with a different story and issue. Each episode is a dramatised dispute, and the tribal judge solves the problem according to bedouin justice.

Supervising the dialogue, accent and costumes during the filming, Dr. Abbadi said that "Stories from the Bedouins" has already been marketed in most Arab countries.

The series is directed by Mohammad Barnawi, also a bedouin. It features a new Iraqi actress, and the rest of the actors and actresses are Jordanian bedouins.

This is not the first or last TV series that Dr. Abbadi has written. The first televised bedouin series in 1975, "Wadha and Ibn Ajlan," was written by him, and it was televised all over the Arab World except Egypt. He has also written "Desert Hawks."

Dr. Abbadi is also preparing for two bedouin series. "Talks," scheduled for filming in the beginning of the new year. Another project is "Tour of Jordan," which will be a joint Jordanian-West German production, and is to be translated into English, French and Italian.

Henry Ford Museum offers view of 'car kingdom'

By Richard Walker

Reuters

DEARBORN, Michigan — In the region that can justly be called the "kingdom of the car," the Henry Ford Museum had unveiled an exhibition depicting the enormous changes wrought by the automobile on 20th-century living.

Costing \$6 million, the show is the first major departure from the way the Ford Museum has presented itself since it was founded by the eccentric auto pioneer in 1919, nearly six decades ago, before than one million people visit each year.

"Our display here hasn't changed much since Henry Ford employed the used car lot approach — putting a lot of artefacts out on the floor with a sign on them," says Harold Skramstad, president of the museum and adjacent Greenfield Village.

The Ford Museum is best known for its attachment to Greenfield Village, the first U.S. theme park with American history as its focus. The aim was to celebrate great inventors and a vision of America's pre-industrial roots — as seen through the eyes of the original Henry Ford.

But the new automobile exhibit more than a mere celebration of the people and events that made Detroit the "motor city".

The museum integrates vintage cars with the cultural icons and institutions that permanently changed America from a mostly rural nation of limited personal mobility in the 19th century to what it has become today — a country dependent on the automobile.

The Ford Museum also took an unusual approach by securing cooperation from major worldwide auto companies like Toyota, Honda, Daimler-Benz, Volkswagen and Mazda in addition to the Detroit-based companies.

Designed for permanent display, the 5,400 square metre exhibition incorporates the Ford Museum's renowned collection of classic cars with an incredible

array of "objects" which sprang forth from the invention and rise of the automobile.

The display focuses on such themes as the move of business to the roadside, the way the car developed into a vehicle for owners' self-expression, the use of camping vehicles and sports cars and advertising and promotion.

Largely taken for granted by more than 150 million U.S. motorists, visitors to the museum are treated to reconstructed or original versions of the old-time roadside or drive-in restaurant, the motel, the tourist cabin, the drive-in movie theatre, the service station and the advertisement hoarding.

Among the displays is a Texaco service station from the 1940s that was brought from New England in the northeast of the United States and rebuilt with a 1939 Dodge Airtone tank truck parked at its petrol pumps.

It also includes an original neon-lit McDonald's single "Golden Arch" from 1960 advertising 15-cent hamburgers, and other old-fashioned roadside advertisements.

"Lamy's Diner," which was opened for business by Clovis Lamy in 1946, was moved from Massachusetts to Michigan and restored with a jukebox playing 1940s hits to help recreate the atmosphere from the American car boom after World War II.

Then there are the cars themselves, which have been grouped to show evolution of body styles from the horseless carriage days to John Kennedy's "bubbletop" presidential limousine to the era of futuristic design when cars look like something out of a Buck Rogers cartoon strip.

Honda of Japan donated the first Accord built at its plant in Ohio, which fits in with the theme of the recent globalisation of the auto industry.

The exhibit also includes an 1896 Duryea — the first production car built in the United States which Skramstad says is the museum's most valuable single asset.

By Jeremy Lovell

Reuters

ROTTERDAM — One-third of the world's plant and animal species is in imminent danger of extinction unless action is taken now, according to Norman Myers, visiting professor at Utrecht University in The Netherlands.

Myers, 53, has just been installed as the first visiting professor of international nature conservation at the university. The new chair is funded by the Prince Bernhard Birthday Association, a charitable trust founded by the husband of former Queen Juliana.

"We are into the opening phase of a period of mass extinction of species as habitats are destroyed and pesticide use booms throughout the world," Myers said.

Myers said he had arrived at his estimate of the scale of the threat to plant and animal species, and the rate of loss, by extrapolating from reports of disappearances of species all over the world.

He added that roughly half of his estimated daily loss of animal species was insects.

He said the worst of the problem was in the poorer tropical and sub-tropical developing countries, but the richer developed countries were actively contributing to mass destruction. "In Brazil whole tracts of irreplaceable tropical rain forest are being torn down every day to make way for cattle ranches to supply cheap beef for hamburgers," Myers added.

"In Thailand, too, demand from the European Community for manioc (a tuber crop) for cheap cattle feed is encouraging local farmers to rip out natural flora and fauna habitats."

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Kenya takes Africa Cup ending 12-year dominance by the north

The winners receive Nelson Mandela Cup from President Daniel Arap Moi

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenya's Gor Mahia on Saturday ended a 12-year dominance by north and west African teams in the Africa Cup Winners' Cup soccer tournament when it took the championship with a 1-1 tie against Esperance of Tunisia.

The teams had tied, 2-2, two weeks ago in Tunis. But since away goals count double in the case of a tie, Kenya wound up with a 5-4 advantage.

"It was a bit dirty, a difficult game as finals usually are," said Gor's Danish coach Jack Johnson. "All the same, the result is satisfying for the hard work the boys have put in."

Esperance's coach, Anton Pieknickczek of Poland, refused to talk with reporters immediately after the match. But the team physician, Ghali Jellal, com-

plained of rough play by the Kenyans and of poor officiating by international referee Alex Hioha of Cameroun.

An overflow crowd in the 60,000-seat stadium at the Moi International Sports Complex went wild with jubilation as Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi presented Gor Captain Austin Oduor the tournament trophy, the Nelson Mandela Cup. The trophy was renamed this year to honour the jailed South African nationalist.

Gor Mahia is the first East

African team to win the Africa Cup Winners' Cup Championship, one of Africa's most prestigious soccer titles.

The continent-wide competition began in 1975. Saturday's penalty-fueled match was rough and tumble from the start.

Esperance left fullback Dan Majid was sent off early in the match after he hit Gor Mahia's Anthony Ndolo, the Tunisians second offence of the match. Two Tunisian players and two Kenyans were shown yellow cards.

Gor Mahia centre-forward Peter Dawo, one of the players drawing a yellow card, stormed back immediately after the warning to score the game's first goal. It came on a header in the 21st minute after a corner kick by Gor

midfielder George Oyango.

Kenya's defence controlled the game for the rest of the first half and halfway into the second 45 minutes.

Esperance's defence also stiffened as goalkeeper Nacur Chouane kept picking off shots by Gor.

Then, in the 74th minute Esperance got a corner shot which Gor defenders intercepted, but mishandled. In the scramble for the ball, Esperance's inside left Tarar Dhiab slipped through and scored the equalizer.

Gor Mahia reached the finals in 1979 but wound up second best to Canon Sportif of Cameroun.

Esperance reached the quarter-finals in 1985 but lost to an Ivory Coast club.

Swiss woman wins Val d'Isere downhill

VAL D'ISERE, France (AP) — Chantal Bournissen of Switzerland scored her first World Cup ski victory Saturday, taking advantage of changing weather to lead a bevy of unknowns to the high placings in the downhill race.

Bournissen, a 20-year-old in just her second year on the team, was just the 36th starter but finished the race in 1 minute, 22.64 seconds, faster by a tenth of a second than second-place Marina Kiehl of West Germany.

Another West German, Ulrike Stanggassinger, came in third with 1:22.94 despite starting 50th of 61 competitors.

"The sun rose just as the usually less-dangerous competitors were starting," said Zoe Haas of Switzerland, who was third on Friday but only 16th on Saturday. "It melted the snow and that made the glide faster."

Italy routes Portugal in European qualifier

MILAN, Italy (R) — Two goals in the dying minutes lifted Italy to a satisfying 3-0 victory against a depleted but dangerous Portugal on Saturday in a European Soccer Championship Group II qualifier.

Italy, the 1982 world champions, had already qualified for the European finals as group winners but Saturday's two points put the icing on the cake by assuring them one of the two number two seedings.

Striker Gianluca Vialli sparked the first goal after eight minutes from the edge of the area and setting up the third one minute from time when he laid on a perfect pass for substitute Luigi De Agostini.

Giuseppe Giannini had made it 2-0 in the 88th minute when he ran clear onto a lobbed pass and hammered the ball into the top of the net.

Portugal, with nothing to play for but the honour, were depleted by the absence of injured star striker Paolo Futre and seven Porto players released from the squad to prepare for the World Club Championship match against Penarol of Uruguay on

Dec. 13. But the scratch team matched Italy chance-for-chance in the drizzle of Milan's San Siro Stadium and only an absence of luck and the acrobatics of goalkeeper Walter Zenga kept them from scoring.

"We played an extremely able and difficult side on an impossible pitch," Italian coach Azezio Vicini said afterwards.

"But we put on a great show at the start and finish and I'm happy it was the youngsters who scored. It will give them the confidence and authority they need."

Italy have lost only once in 13 matches since Vicini took charge after the 1986 Mexico World Cup finals with the job of moulding a new team for the European finals in June 1988 and the World Cup finals two years beyond that in Italy.

Saturday's victory took their record in the qualifiers to six wins, one defeat and a draw.

It means they will be certain of a second seed place behind host nation West Germany or England, who will head the two groups that will be drawn from the qualifying teams.

Sampdoria's Vialli, 23, went into Saturday's match with both

goals under his belt from the 2-1 win against Sweden three weeks ago which assured Italy's passage to the finals.

He made it three-in-a-row for the national side when, lurking outside the area, he picked up a ball punched clear by goalkeeper Jesus and shot low and hard into the left-hand corner of the net.

Jesus limped off injured in the 68th minute and it was substitute Lucio who fell foul of Giannini and De Agostini, brought on for Salvatore Bagni 62 minutes into the match.

Three previously uncapped players were in Portugal's opening line-up and it was two of them, Gilberto and Hernani, who came closest to scoring.

The Italian team included Walter Zenga, Giuseppe Bergomi, Giovanni Francini, Franco Baresi, Riccardo Ferri, Salvatore Bagni (Luigi de Agostini 62nd min), Roberto Donadoni, Fernando de Napoli, Alessandro Altobelli (Roberto Mancini 68th), Giuseppe Giannini, Gianluca Vialli.

From Portugal, there were Jesus (Lucio 68th), Joao Costead, Miguel, Frederico, Dito, Antonio Carvalho, Hernani, Nascimento (Carlos Parente 55th), Joao Coelho, Adao, Gilberto.

Ibn Sulayem clinches Mideast Championship

The UAE champ drives his Toyota to victory in the Dubai International Rally

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Dubai's Mohammad Ibn Sulayem won the Dubai International Rally Friday after leading from the start and clinched the Middle East Championship.

It was his second successive win. His overall time in the two-day, 500-mile (800-kilometre) rally was 3:24.10.

Sulayem and his navigator, John Spiller of Britain, crossed the line in their Toyota Celica 35.01 minutes ahead of West Germans Reinhard Hainbach and Ricken Erhard.

The winners, driving together for the first time, also took the driver's championship, navigator's title and manufacturer's crown.

Sulayem's win Friday gave him 134 points in the Middle East

Championship. Earlier championship events were run in Oman, Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait and Lebanon.

Nabil Karam of Jordan secured the 12th position in his Opel Manta.

Karam and his navigator Ziad Hamzeh had kicked off to a promising start but failed to reach advanced slots due to technical failures in the second day of the rally.

Qatar's Saeed Al-Hajri, Sulayem's arch-rival, was second with 100 points, even though he fell out of the Dubai event and was not placed.

The veteran spiller announced his retirement soon after Friday's triumph.

"It's a career decision," he said. "It's been fun driving with

the champion, and but for better prospects back home, I might still be in."

Sulayem noted: "It's said, I've gained quite a lot from him. But it's his decision."

"I only knew about it just before the start of the rally, but we carried on to carry off the titles in style."

Two-time West German champions Hainbach and Erhard, driving an Opel Manta, were happy with second place in 3:59.11.

Lebanon's Tony Georgiou and Britain's Tom Steel in a privately entered Nissan 240 R.S. were third, the same position they took last year, in 4:04.46.

Alan Skennerton, a Dubai-based Briton, was fourth in a Range Rover with 4:05.20.

Kafoor M. Kadfoor of Dubai,

also in a Range Rover, placed fifth on 4:08.42, and countryman Ali Saif Hamaidan was sixth in a Land Rover with 4:13.29.

The all-women crew of Anise Risely and Helen Whitaker, both Dubai-based Britons, finished 14th in a Mitsubishi Pajero.

Only 15 cars finished out of the 47 starters in the gruelling race run through Dubai's Hatta mountains and later the sandy flats of Jebel Ali.

Twenty-one cars completed the first leg on the twisting Hatta roads.

Lebanon's Michel Saleh was

the first to fall by the wayside in his Audi Quattro. Then Al-Hajri followed soon after in his Porsche 911 SCRS.

After that, Lasse Lampi and Pentti Kuukkala of Finland in a Mitsubishi Starion faded in the 17th stage of the first leg, leaving the way clear for Sulayem.

"I knew it was in the bag after I completed the first leg, so I took it easy," the champion said.

"But the home advantage was also there. Basically, I had a strong car and a good co-driver and with a little bit from me it all ended nicely," he said.

Blair barely misses setting record

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Bonnie Blair of the United States barely missed a new world record in the 500 metres Friday during the first World Cup speed-skating race ever held in the new Olympic oval. Blair was timed in 39.44 seconds, .01 behind her own world record of 39.43.

Lakers, Bulls lose; Clippers prevail in 2nd straight game

NEW YORK (AP) — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar doesn't score in double figures for the first time in 10 years and the Los Angeles Lakers lose.

Larry Bird misses a foul shot and the Boston Celtics lose. Michael Jordan is slowed down and the Chicago Bulls lose. The Los Angeles Clippers win their second straight game.

What a weird Friday night in the NBA. Abdul-Jabbar's streak of 787 games with at least 10 points ended in Milwaukee — where he started his pro career — as he scored just seven in the Lakers' 85-83 loss to the Milwaukee Bucks.

In Detroit, Bird's streak of 59 straight foul shots ended when he missed his first try to the evening as the Pistons beat Boston 128-105.

Basketballer denies using drugs

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Rockets centre Akeem Olajuwon says he is not using drugs and he's offering to put up at least \$50,000 to prove it.

"If anyone thinks I'm on drugs, bring \$1,000 and put it down, and I'll put \$50,000, 100,000 up front," Olajuwon said Thursday night after practice. "I'll take a drug test, and if I fail, they can get the \$50,000. If I'm right, they can donate the \$1 thousand to a drug centre."

"I'll take the drug test any time, and not just now, as long as I'm in the league."

Olajuwon said it's important to him to squelch rumours circulating in the National Basketball Association (NBA) that he is using drugs.

United had enjoyed the sunshine in Bermuda but not the publicity surrounding Welsh international defender Clayton Blackmore, accused and then cleared of rape.

Blackmore found himself away from the limelight on the substitutes' bench on Saturday and was not needed. United coped admirably with the ailing challenge of the one-time leaders.

The victory kept them firmly in fifth place, but 11 points behind Liverpool.

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China hints at Olympic participation

PEKING (R) — China, a close ally of North Korea which has threatened to call a boycott of the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, signalled on Saturday it would send a team to South Korea.

"March out of Asia and into the world is China's final aim of sporting development and the Olympic and Asian Games are the arena for the nation to display its sporting best," the official New China News Agency said on the final day of China's national games.

But it said it was obvious after two weeks of sport in the southern city of Canton that Chinese athletes had to improve "flair and form" for the Olympics and for the Asian Games which China will host in 1990.

The news agency criticised organisers of the national games for including 18 non-Olympic events among the 44-event programme, saying China's financial and material resources were too limited to pursue so many different disciplines.

The Soviet Union, the United

States and East Germany concentrated mainly on Olympic events in their national games, the agency noted.

"National athletes exhausted" was the headline in the official China daily which criticised China's provincial teams for burdening national athletes with too many events in their search for medals.

China has not yet announced whether it will attend the 1988 Olympics but western diplomats said they were sure a team would be sent to South Korea. January 17 is the deadline for notifying the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

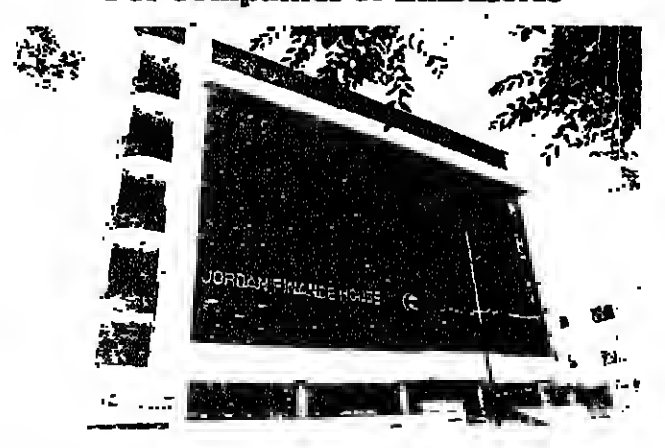
North Korea has threatened to call a boycott of the games, saying it wants to co-host them with South Korea. Talks involving both sides and the IOC in Switzerland have failed so far to resolve the issue.

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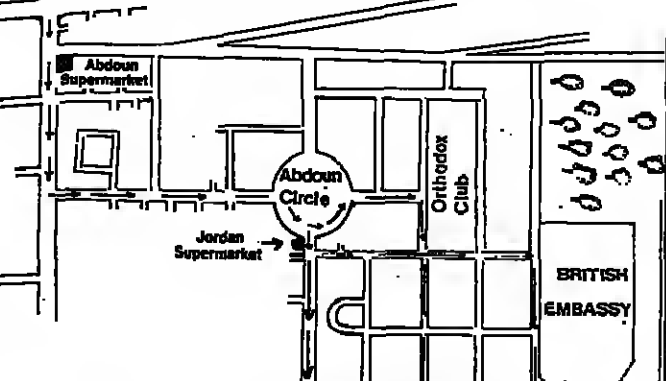


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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Karpov keeps balance in title chess match

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — The 20th game of the World Chess Championship between titleholder Garry Kasparov and challenger Anatoly Karpov ended in a hard-fought draw after 37 moves on Friday. Kasparov, 24, mounted long and steady pressure on his rival and appeared intent on a win that would have virtually guaranteed the retention of his crown. Karpov, 36, was highly praised by chess experts for his defensive play. He was also handicapped by a shortage of time for reflection. The match remains tied at 10-10 points with three wins and 14 draws to each player.

Japan wins team titles in shooting event

HONG KONG (AP) — Japanese Marksmen dominated the 1987 clay target shooting Grand Prix of Asia on Saturday, winning the team titles in both the skeet and trap events. In the skeet event, the Japanese trio of Hisayoshi Nemoto, Shino Obata and Osamu Okabe scored a one-point victory over South Korea at the end of the three-day competition. South Korea's Kim Chang-Nyeon, Kim Hay-Yeon and Lim Dong-Ki scored 407 points out of a possible 450 with Japan scoring 408. In the trap event, Japan's Yoichi Kimura, Yukio Tsuruta and Kazumi Watanabe shot down 402 targets.

Injunction on Maxwell withdrawn

LONDON (R) — The English Football League (F.L.) withdrew on Saturday their injunction blocking publisher Robert Maxwell from taking over rock singer Elton John's interest in First Division Watford. A joint statement from the league and Maxwell said the publisher had agreed in return to sell his shares in another First Division side, Oxford United. Maxwell retains an interest in First Division Derby County and Second Division Reading. On Friday the league were granted a temporary high court injunction preventing the two million pounds sterling (\$3.6 million) deal for John's 93 per cent holding in the club because of concern over Maxwell's involvement in other teams. Saturday's joint statement said to the best interests of soccer, Maxwell and his family would dispose of their interests in Oxford to a suitable purchaser who would guarantee the club's future. Maxwell's son Kevin is presently chairman of Oxford.

Lendl, Wilander advance to semifinals

NEW YORK (R) — Sweden's Mats Wilander and Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia on Friday reached the semifinals of the \$500,000 Masters Tennis Tournament. American Brad Gilbert beat Boris Becker 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 on Friday, lessening the West German's chances of moving into Sunday's semifinals. Gilbert, with a 2-1 match record in the round-robin event, will make the semifinals unless Becker, at 1-1, pulls his game together quickly and beats world number one Ivan Lendl in straight sets scheduled for Saturday. Since a victory over Lendl would only tie Becker at 2-1 with Gilbert, the player who advances will be determined by the highest number of sets won. "If I beat him in two (sets) I'm happy," Becker said. "If I beat him in three I'm happy." Even if he doesn't reach the semifinals, Becker said, "then I have at least that thing that I beat him. Sometimes that's more than winning tournaments."

Brazil names soccer team for int'l ties

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — The Brazilian all-star soccer team will not include players from the two finalists of the national championship when it faces Chile and West Germany in exhibition games next week. Coach Carlos Alberto Silva on Friday announced 18 players for the team's first appearance since the Pan-American games in July.

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Church, unions call for strike to oust Haiti junta

150 U.S. officials, families being evacuated

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Three major trade unions and a top presidential candidate has called for a general strike to oust the ruling junta, which was blamed for rampant violence that aborted national elections.

The Roman Catholic Church also urged Haitians to keep the military-dominated junta from making its own election rules and charged the army was responsible for the wave of terror sweeping through this poverty-stricken Caribbean nation.

The Autonomous Central of Haitian Workers, the country's largest labour group, in a communique broadcast by Radio Metropole on Friday urged Haitians to "throw out the criminals and the candidates that sympathise with the junta."

Presidential candidate Sylvio Claude, the Association of Public Employees and the Union of Public Transport Drivers joined the Autonomous Central's call for a nationwide walkout to start Monday.

"If the junta does not resign, we ask for the intervention of a Multinational Observer Force to supervise elections and guarantee security," said Claude, whose previous call for a strike to start

Friday drew no support, apparently because it was hastily organised.

Last Sunday, the civilian Electoral Council stopped elections three hours after balloting had begun to save voters from being killed. Soldiers as well as marauding gangs linked to the military-dominated junta roamed Port Au Prince, shooting down people at random in the streets and slaughtering others at voting stations.

When voting stopped, the violence abated. But at the end of the day 34 people were dead, 75 were wounded and Haiti's first free election in at least 20 years was derailed.

The junta, led by Lt.-Gen. Henri Namphy, has governed Haiti since a popular uprising chased President Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier out of the country on Feb. 7, 1986. Duvalier's flight into exile ended a family dictatorship begun in 1957 by his father, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

7 killed in Filipino election-related violence

MANILA (R) — Seven people, including two local election candidates, were reported killed and three wounded in two separate incidents in the Philippines.

The deaths brought to four the number of candidates killed since the campaign for the Jan. 18 local elections started a week ago.

Government television said on Saturday that 10 armed men ambushed a convoy in Bulacan province on Friday carrying the government's mayoral candidate

Leonardo San Andres and his running mate Alfredo De Leon. San Andres, a former mayor of Pandi town north of Manila, survived the attack but former police chief De Leon and four aides were killed.

Mayoral Candidate Pedro Carmona and an aide were shot dead and two companions wounded by three gunmen in a southern town on Friday, a military spokesman said.

He said Carmona, a former

U.S. reaffirms support for Sri Lankan peace pact

COLOMBO (R) — President Ronald Reagan wrote to President Junius Jayewardene and reaffirmed U.S. support for a peace accord aimed at ending Sri Lanka's Tamil revolt, Sri Lankan officials said on Saturday.

They said the letter was delivered to the Foreign Ministry on Friday, the day the United States and 15 other countries of an aid consortium were meeting in Paris to discuss Sri Lankan rehabilitation of war-damaged areas.

A U.S. embassy spokesman confirmed a letter signed by Mr. Reagan was sent to Mr. Jayewardene but declined comment on its contents.

Sri Lankan officials said the letter reiterated Washington's support for the peace pact Mr. Jayewardene signed with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in July, and committed a certain amount of aid to Sri Lanka's rehabilitation programme.

Officials from the U.S. Agency for International Aid said this week the United States was unlikely to pledge any specific amount at the Paris meeting because of U.S. budget problems.

They said a general statement expressing firm support for Sri Lanka's rehabilitation would instead be made at the World

Bank-hosted meeting, which was called following the signing of the peace pact.

Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie De Mel told the donors meeting on Friday that the next few months were likely to be most decisive for Sri Lanka because the government would be seeking a fresh mandate from the people after 10 years in power.

"There is still some tension and incidents of violence in some parts of the country but we feel that peace, law and order can be restored by the beginning of next year," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jayewardene has ordered an inquiry into the killings of at least 19 civilians during a battle between Indian soldiers and Tamil rebels in eastern Sri Lanka, military sources said.

They said Mr. Jayewardene on Friday asked Rizvi Sinnalabhe, the member of parliament representing Batticaloa district, to probe the killings which occurred on Wednesday at Ottamawadi village.

The Indian High Commission said nine of his soldiers were killed and 10 injured when an Indian army convoy was ambushed by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels.

Ganilau appointed Fijian president

SUVA (R) — Former Governor-General Ratu Sir Paoa Ganilau was appointed the first president of the republic of Fiji on Saturday as coup leader Brig. Sitiveni Rabuka stepped aside as Fiji's head of government.

Brig. Rabuka, who also named Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara as Prime Minister, said in a nationwide broadcast on army-controlled Radio Fiji that the appointment of Ganilau and Mara would speed the return to civilian rule in the South Pacific Island state.

Brig. Rabuka said he hoped the return to civilian government would lead to Fiji being readmitted to the Commonwealth.

"These have been momentous times for Fiji and the link with Her Majesty the Queen (Elizabeth II) has been severed," Brig. Rabuka said in a 10-minute broadcast.

"But I have by decree today appointed Ganilau as the first president of Fiji and it is my sincere hope that he will lead a way for Fiji to progress to a point where the historic link with the crown can be reestablished."

Fiji was expelled from the Commonwealth, a grouping of former British colonies.

U.S., U.K. oppose U.N. draft on decolonisation

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States and Britain cast the only negative votes, and France refused to take part in the balloting, when the General Assembly approved two resolutions on Friday on decolonisation.

One lengthy draft, adopted by a vote of 131 to two with seven abstentions, called on administering powers to enable dependent peoples to exercise without delay their right to self-determination and independence.

It also reaffirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of people under colonial and alien domination to exercise this right by all the necessary means at their disposal.

The continuation of colonialism in all its forms, including racism, apartheid and activities of foreign economic and other interests contrary to the U.N.'s 1960 decolonisation declaration, were again declared incompatible with the U.N. charter and a serious threat to peace and security.

The second resolution, approved by 135 votes to two with six abstentions, called on the United Nations to intensify its efforts for the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonisation.

Dhaka faces new crisis after resignations

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh, battling to protect its fragile democracy, ran into a new political crisis after the largest opposition party decided to resign from parliament.

Awami League leader Abdul Mannan told journalists on Friday night all 73 members of his party had decided to resign from the parliament.

He said they would tender their resignations to Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury after party chief Sheikh Hasina, now under house arrest, approved the decision.

A party source said on Saturday Mrs. Hasina was still undecided about the move and had asked party members to delay the resignations.

Sloppy work, accidents reported at Chernobyl

MOSCOW (AP) — Sloppy work, poor discipline and safety violations at the Chernobyl nuclear plant contributed to 36 accidents over a 10-month period, three of them fatal, a newspaper reported.

According to Friday's editions of the daily Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya (Socialist Industry), the accidents were reported in a recent speech by the Communist party head in Slavutich, a new town for plant workers about 50 kilometres from Chernobyl.

The newspaper quoted the party official, identified as V. Lukyanenko, as saying that much remained to be done in giving Chernobyl workers the appropriate feeling of responsibility for their work at the nuclear plant.

"The staff of the station have not been inculcated with an im-

Bush: History will consider North a hero

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush said on Saturday that Oliver North, the former White House aide under criminal investigation for his role in the Iran-contra scandal, will go down in history as a national hero.

"I think Ollie will," Mr. Bush said when television interviewer David Frost asked him: "Do you think in history he'll (North) go down as a national hero?"

President Reagan used that phrase to describe the Marine lieutenant colonel in a much-quoted assessment when the scandal first broke last year. But he backed away from it as the affair mushroomed into a full-scale political crisis.

Mr. Bush, the favourite for the 1988 Republican Party presidential nomination, said in the Frost interview he had tremendous respect for Col. North, who was fired by Mr. Reagan in November 1986 for secretly diverting profits from the Iran arms sale to U.S.-backed contra rebels in Nicaragua.

"He said he made some mis-

takes. I'll say he made some mistakes. But he believed passionately in something," Mr. Bush added in the interview broadcast on Saturday.

"Ollie stood up there, took the heat, and the American people in every bar in Chicago and every bowling alley in Texas and every little home said, 'Hey, this guy believes in something, and I can identify with it.'"

"And I feel that way about Ollie North ... I respect somebody who feels passionately and strongly about values, about things, about his country, his patriotism."

Col. North is a prime target of an grand jury investigation by special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, who is investigating whether a wide range of laws were broken in the Iran-contra operations.

A joint congressional investigation into the scandal concluded, in a report released last month, that many laws had been broken and Col. North was among those responsible.

Opposition coalition wins by landslide in Surinam

PARAMARIBO (R) — Surinam's electoral commission confirmed on Friday the Nov. 25 landslide victory of an opposition coalition, but declared the returns from three war-torn districts void.

In the poll, the first since the military seized power in 1980, the opposition Front for Democracy and Development took 40 of 51 seats in the National Assembly. The military-backed National Democratic Party (NDP) won three seats, the official Surinam News Agency (SNA) said.

The electoral commission gave

four seats to the Javanese-based Pendawallima Party, and four to the Progressive Workers and Farmers Party (PALU).

The huge victory of the front, a three-party coalition, also extended to municipal and local councils, where it won 616 of 738 seats. The NDP won 119, Pendawallima one and PALU two.

Under Surinam law, the National Assembly must meet within a month after the final election results to choose a president with extensive powers for a five-year term.

Aides hint U.S. may stop support for Afghan rebels

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials said Friday the United States "presumably" would stop providing military support to anti-government rebels once the Soviet Union started withdrawing troops from Afghanistan.

The comments by the two officials in President Ronald Reagan's administration apparently conflicted with a statement by Mr. Reagan during an interview Thursday.

In the interview, Mr. Reagan said that "the people of Afghanistan must be assured of the right of all of them to participate in establishing the government they want, and that requires more than just getting his (the Soviets') forces out of there."

Asked if the two officials at the pre-summit briefing on Friday were suggesting that U.S. support would be withdrawn at the start of the Soviet army withdrawal, White House spokesman Roman

Papadiuk said "the president stated his position quite clearly yesterday."

The officials, who provided the briefing at the White House under rules that shielded them from identification, said Mr. Reagan would press Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev next week for "a date certain" to start the pullout.

Afghanistan looms as one of the major non-nuclear issues at the talks the two leaders will hold at the White House Tuesday through Thursday.

The Soviets have indicated they are prepared to withdraw the estimated 115,000 troops over a year. But the officials said that was not soon enough.

"We would like to see that ending day before the end of next year, and we are going to be pressing for that," one of the officials said.

COLUMNS 7&8

Gunman points pistol at sportscaster

FRESNO, California (AP) — A man entered a television studio during the evening news programme, pointed a phony gun at a sportscaster and forced him to begin reading a rambling "Christian message." The incident Friday was visible to viewers for 27.5 seconds until the station went off the air briefly, then showed public service announcements for seven minutes, said Kathy Bargas, a producer for the station, KJEO. The 170-word handwritten statement was read in its entirety by sportscaster Marc Cotta, but only a few sentences were heard by viewers. The man, identified as David Pretzer, 21, was apprehended by police shortly afterward. There were no injuries. Pretzer was charged with felony false imprisonment and brandishing a handgun, a misdemeanor. Lt. Jerry Davis said. A videotape replayed for reporters showed Cotta being interrupted while narrating taped highlights of a basketball game. When the camera cuts back, the gunman is seen pointing the weapon at Cotta's midsection. "There's nothing, no bad language, anything. Just go for it. Read it," the gunman told Cotta. Cotta then started to read the statement, fumbled, and was told to start again. When he did, the station cut away. The gunman put the weapon down after about two minutes. "He pointed the gun at me and said he wanted me to read (the statement) on the air to save his soul," Cotta said.

5-year-old takes sister for a cruise

RYE, New York (AP) — A 5-year-old boy took his baby sister for a ride in a wagon Friday morning — his parents' station wagon — after pulling the car out of the family garage and into morning rush-hour traffic, police said. "He was doing a pretty good job of it," said an incredulous officer Robert Vogel. The officer stopped the Buick station wagon and its 3-foot-tall (1-metre) driver around 7:05 a.m. (11:05 GMT), police said. The boy had driven about 2.4 kilometres from his home in this suburb north of New York City. "The car immediately pulled over to the curb and didn't even hit the curb. It was a beautiful job of pulling the car over," Vogel said. Unfortunately, he wasn't as good at stopping the car, Vogel said. The boy forgot to put the car in park and it started to roll with his sister inside. The officer said he stopped the car and rescued the little girl, who was crying. The 5-year-old, whose name was not released, took his mother's purse and keys out to the locked garage, opened the door, backed the car out and headed for the highway with his 2-year-old sister in the front seat, said Rye Police Detective Gene Barry. The child then "went down a very busy street at a very busy time," Barry said. A bus driver who spotted the children notified the police. After police pulled the little boy over, he stepped out of the vehicle and informed Vogel, "I know how to drive," the officer said. Both driver and passenger were taken to police headquarters and their parents were notified, Vogel said.

Order to hand-wash floors reversed

BOSTON (AP) — Maids at the posh Copley Plaza Hotel will not have to get down on their hands and knees to wash floors after all, the hotel says. "In an effort to avoid any misunderstanding over this issue, and at the same time to provide the cleanest accommodations possible, the hotel will provide mops, cloths and everything else the chamberperson needs," said a hotel statement. The controversy began on Nov. 10 when the hotel's maids were ordered to turn in their mops, according to Dominic Bozzotto, president of a local chapter of the Boston Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union. "This means that they can only clean with their hands, and that means they'll be on their hands and knees," Bozzotto said. "The hotel knows that 99 per cent of these maids are minorities, and most of them are older women. It's just outrageous that in 1987, we have no cleaning instruments to do this job." In the past, the hotel has tried a variety of methods for cleaning bathroom floors, said Melanie Marcus, vice president and director of public relations for Hotels of Distinction Inc., the hotel's manager. "As a result of guest comments, the hotel felt it necessary to try using hand cleaning alone, rather than mops," said a hotel statement read by Ms. Marcus. "There has never been any intention of making it physically difficult for our staff to perform their jobs."

Soviets to publish Pasternak biography

MOSCOW (AP) — The son of Nobel Prize winning author Boris Pasternak has written a biography of his father that will be published soon in the Soviet Union, TASS has announced. Yevgeny Pasternak, a fellow at the Institute for World Literature in Moscow, told the official news agency that the 1,000-page book will contain several photographs of his father at various stages in his life. The book also will include Pasternak's letters to his parents, other family members and other literary figures. TASS said the book already has been prepared for publication by Moscow's Sovetskoy Pisatel publishers. Pasternak won the 1958 Nobel Prize for literature after publication in the West of Doctor Zhivago, his tale of the Russian Revolution. The novel has been banned in the Soviet Union ever since, but the literary journal Novy Mir has said it will publish it beginning in January. Pasternak was expelled from the Soviet Writers Union and died in disgrace in 1960. "I wanted to show that father's life was connected with what he wrote. This is the principal theme," the younger Pasternak told TASS. Pasternak is among several previously banned authors whose return to favour has been linked to the Soviet policy of "glasnost" or openness, which permits more creative expression and discussion of social issues.

Policewoman brings impressionists home

PARIS (R) — A police chief inspector in the French Art Squad has displayed French Impressionist paintings recovered from Tokyo, but played down the impression she made personally on Japan. Mireille Balestrazzi, a 33-year-old Parisian brunette, was besieged by fascinated Japanese reporters during her mission and dubbed "Madonna" after they discovered she was not a glamorous secretary in the French delegation but its top cop. Balestrazzi flew to Japan on Nov. 9 after the paintings were traced there. After lengthy negotiations with lawyers and police, she retrieved four of five Impressionist works by Jean-Baptiste Corot stolen from a provincial French museum in 1984 and bought, in innocence they said, by Japanese collectors. She brought the paintings home this week in a diplomatic bag. Asked during a news conference at the Interior Ministry about reports that they were stolen under contract from Japan in an arrangement involving French drug dealers and Japanese gangsters, she shook her head and said: "I would speak more in terms of occasional contacts between French and Japanese criminals. Anyway, our Japanese colleagues said the buyers acted in good faith and we accepted that."

Microlight plane begins flight

LONDON (R) — A hang-glider enthusiast piloting a microlight aircraft that cruises at highway speeds took off on Wednesday on the first leg of a 28-stop, 19,000 kilometres flight from Britain to Australia. A spokesman for an international food company sponsoring the flight said pilot Brian Milton hoped to set a new duration record for the tiny aircraft that has no room for a parachute. According to the Guinness Book of Records, the longest an ultralight has remained aloft is seven hours and 31 minutes. Milton planned to spend nine hours in the air on the longest leg of the journey over Saudi Arabia before reaching his final destination of Sydney within a month.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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THRUST AND PARRY

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 4
♥ Q J 7 3
♦ A Q J
♣ A K J 3 3
WEST
♠ 10 9
♥ A 6
♦ K 9 7 3
♣ 9 7 6 2
EAST
♠ A Q 8 7 5 2
♥ K 5 4
♦ 10 6
♣ Q 4

SOUTH
♠ K 6 3
♥ 10 9 8 2
♦ 8 5 4 2
♣ 10 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
Dble 3 ♠ Pass Pass
Dble Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

The battle between a skilled defender and a clever declarer can be plotted much the way duellists of yore must have planned their encounters. This hand, played in a national championship more than 20 years ago, remains one of our favorites.

North's bidding is instructive. Since South had not yet bid, both of North's doubles were for takeout. That eventually forced a heart bid

from his partner.

West led the Jack of spades to his partner's ace. East, the late internationalist Cliff Bishop of Detroit, worked out that the best chance to defeat the contract was to play his partner for a doubleton ace of hearts, and to try to get a diamond ruff. So at trick two he made the fine shift to a diamond. Declarer won in dummy with the jack and led a trump. In keeping with his strategy, East shot up with the king of trumps and returned another diamond to the table's queen.

By now the intent of East's nefarious maneuvers were clear to declarer, Maury Genuel of Los Angeles. He found an elegant counter. He cashed the ace-king of clubs, dropping the queen, and continued with a low club, which he ruffed to set up the long card in the suit and to provide an entry to his hand.

Next, he cashed the king of spades on which he jettisoned the board's ace of diamonds!

With that accomplished, he could afford to lead a second round of trumps. In with the ace, West could do declarer no harm. He tried his fourth club, but declarer was able to ruff in hand, get back to dummy with a spade ruff to draw the last trump and claim his contract.

With that accomplished, he could afford to lead a second round of trumps. In with the ace, West could do declarer no harm. He tried his fourth club, but declarer was able to ruff in hand, get back to dummy with a spade ruff to draw the last trump and claim his contract.

The election, South Korea's first direct presidential vote for 16 years, was called after widespread anti-government street violence in June.

Ms. Hong's nomination as SDP candidate last month made her the first woman presidential contender since South Korea recognised universal suffrage in 1948.

Meanwhile a South Korean youth burned himself to death on Saturday to back a call for a single opposition candidate in this month's presidential election, the national news agency reported.

Yonhap said the youth commended a bus and drove it 500 metres to a plaza outside a station in Taejeon, south of Seoul, where he doused himself with inflammable liquid and set himself on fire